

Funds released for construction of senior center

Ashley Lawrence
Staff Writer

The City of Romulus received the final release of funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development this week allowing the city to enter into contracts for work to begin on the new senior citizens' center.

"We had been pre-approved for the project," said Maria Lambert, Downtown Development Authority director. "But now with this final release we actually able to begin hiring people to get the work started."

The project includes the construction of a 15,400-square-foot senior center, with administrative offices, a kitchen, library, family room, conference/club room, billiards/game room, multi-purpose rooms and a meeting room. The current senior center will be demolished after

the new center is completed. The project will cost about \$3.1 million, according to Tim Keyes, Romulus economic development director.

"The funds for the senior center project are coming from two areas, which have both been approved by our city council," he said. "The first being the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) fund for \$2.1 million and then \$1 million is coming from the Downtown Development Authority (DDA). So, this project is properly financed."

Lambert said that each year the bond payment will be \$240,400, which will be paid from the CDBG fund. This will take care of about two-thirds of the cost. The DDA will then make up the balance of the bond payments due, said Lambert.

"There is more than enough money in the DDA to cover this project," said Lambert.

The planning department has been working on the new senior center project for most of the year, said Lambert.

"The initial design has been completed and 99 percent of the architectural components are done," said Lambert. "We have just opened bids for the first phase of the construction and if the weather cooperates hopefully we will have a foundation and blocks by the end of the year."

The senior center is not the only department that will find a new home in the center.

The Romulus Recreation Department will move there, too.

Currently, the recreation department is connected to the senior center. Both share a common room to host activities throughout the year, but with the construction

See **Center**, page 3



Sweet treats

Parent involvement is crucial in the success of children in school, so to help parents become involved in their children's school life Merriman Elementary School recently hosted a "Pastries for Parents" day. Parents donated time to make the pastries, as well as serve them to parents and students alike. Halecreek Elementary School also recently hosted a "Muffins for Mom" day inviting mom to come in and spend some time with school faculty and students.



Search for missing woman turns up no leads

Ashley Lawrence
Staff Writer

Romulus police are no closer to finding out what happened to a woman who disappeared 28 years ago after an extensive search of a garage where she was allegedly buried.

According to Lt. John Leacher of the Romulus Police Department, the search of a garage on Ecorse Road brought no new clues as to where Ophelia Penny may be.

"We went in there and dug up parts of the cement in the garage and found only bottles and garbage," he said. "We also went back out to the property the following day, working on another tip we had received concerning another area on the property, and found only animal bones in the ground."

At this point Leacher said the police are again at a dead end.

"We are pretty much out of leads," said Leacher. "We are not going to close the case, but now we are waiting for new leads to try to determine where this woman is, hoping that we will find her alive somewhere."

The 28-year old case resurfaced last week after a man came into the station two months ago asking to speak to a detective about a crime he had knowledge of, but did not commit. He told police he wanted to clear his conscience in the matter.

The crime was the disappearance of Ophelia Penny, a woman who had been reported missing 28 years ago by her now-ex-husband, Henry Penny.

Police said that the two were in the middle of a bitter divorce when she disappeared and that Penny told police then that she had run off with a doctor, leaving him and their three children behind.

However, according to the man who came forward, Penny, along with other members of the family, had something to do with the disappearance. He also told police that he knew her body was buried under the garage.

Leacher said the department took their time doing to the research trying to find any trace of Penny from the date she disappeared, but after extensive

See **Missing**, page 3

Goodfellows work to give every child a Christmas

Ashley Lawrence
Staff Writer

Thanksgiving brings the start to the holiday season.

People begin shopping for presents, planning family events and decorating for the upcoming holidays.

But for some less fortunate in Romulus, the holiday season can be filled with disappointment, according to Jill Martin, a member of the Romulus Goodfellows.

"For some of the families in Romulus the holidays can be hard, because they don't have a lot of money," said Martin. "The goal of the Romulus Goodfellows is to make sure that there is no child without a Christmas."

The Romulus Goodfellows, formed more than 20 years ago, is an organization with the sole purpose of bringing Christmas to families who otherwise would not have one each year.

Each year eligible Romulus

residents are able to apply for assistance from the Goodfellows. Families who are accepted receive food, toys and necessities during the holiday season.

The Goodfellows accept donations and also fundraise throughout the year to help make sure that every needy family receives help.

Martin, an employee at the Romulus Fire Department, was the coordinator of the annual giving drive for 13 years up until last

year.

"When the fire department took over the Goodfellows drive 13 years ago, it was much different than it is today," she said. "Back then people received boxes of food and some necessities."

However, Martin said that all changed when the fire department became involved.

"We really went through and looked at what we were giving these people," said Martin. "We

decided that we wanted to buy these families exactly what we would have for our own Christmas dinner."

And so the Romulus Goodfellows began to grow. Families began receiving vegetables, juice, cake mix, stuffing and anything else that can be associated with a holiday meal.

"We wanted these families to be able to have a traditional din-

See **Goodfellows**, page 3

Van Buren wins prestigious state fitness award

Andrea King
Staff Writer

To be the only township to receive the level four award from the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness, Health and Sports Promotion activity in the community is quite an honor.

This year, Van Buren Township received the singular distinction.

Bruce Ross, director of recreation and facilities for Van Buren Township, accepted the award recently in Lansing at the designing healthy livable community conference. The award recognizes communities in Michigan who have made a commitment to make their community a healthy place to live, he said.

"This award has assisted the township by giving residents more knowledge about being healthy," said Ross. "Without the residents this award would not have been possible."

In the past 2 years, the township has received level three awards from the council. This year, Ross contributes the level four win to several programs the township offered including the "Get Up and Get Active" pro-

gram and the Walk Michigan program in collaboration with the Michigan Recreation and Parks Association.

The "Get Up and Get Active" program stimulates children's bodies and minds to the benefits of staying healthy. It took place last May for children ages 7-13 and had an overwhelming response for a new program, according to township officials.

Ross said that so far, there has not been a level five award presented—and he wants Van Buren Township to be the first.

"We are constantly adding on to the programs and incorporating ones that are healthy in nature," he said. "Last year, we built Quirk Park incorporating a walking path and a Vita course with exercise stations along the trail. We've really been working, and I truly believe the old saying, but with a twist—it takes a village to get a child active."

Supervisor Cindy King said that she is obviously excited to be the only township in Michigan to receive the level four award.

"The department worked hard to get the program where it is—always offering new programs to reach a variety of people in the community," she said. "The gov-

ernor's council has a very lengthy process to be considered for this award, so this really speaks to the quality of life in Van Buren."

The process to qualify for the award is done through a point system. It takes about a month to get back the results, according to Ross.

Now, Ross said, the goal is to incorporate a connecting greenway trail to the Metroparks and add more activities to the recreation department. He said they would also be working close with the schools for new ideas.

"If you talk to Bruce and the people of his staff, he'll tell you that the only limitations that they face is the facilities because of lack of space. Otherwise, they have a variety of ideas and plans for the department," said King.

"We are constantly re-assessing on how we can make things better for our community," said Ross. "I would have to thank the residents, the township board, and the staff, in that order. I give kudos to the residents foremost because without them, this award would have never been given to us."

"Hopefully we can get to level 5 in the next few years. I think we're well on our way," added King.

Habitat For Humanity buys land

A vacant parcel of land on Dunning Street near John Daly Road will be home to four new homes built by Habitat for Humanity.

After eight months of negotiating terms, the non-profit and the city came to an agreement to sell the property, said Alice Dent, the director of Habitat for Humanity of Western Wayne County.

"We think this would be a great area to place families," she said. "We have three homes on Plum Street in Inkster, which adjacent to Dunning. Families have expressed to us that being close by creates a better support system and community for them."

The 1,200 square-foot, single-family homes will be sold to families in need who have demonstrated a willingness to plan for homeownership, Dent said.

Habitat for Humanity requires potential homeowners to attend classes on how to budget for expenses to ensure the residents can meet the demands of a 20-year mortgage. New homeowners are also mentored as they navigate the responsibility of homeownership. So far, the group has constructed about 10 homes, she said.

In western Wayne County, Habitat for Humanity has constructed 16 homes. Projects are currently under way in Canton Township, Redford, Lincoln Park and Van Buren Township.

In Inkster, Dent said she hopes to start evaluating some homes for rehabilitation.

Habitat for Humanity paid \$1,600 per lot, or \$9,600, for the land. The homes are expected to be complete in 2 years.

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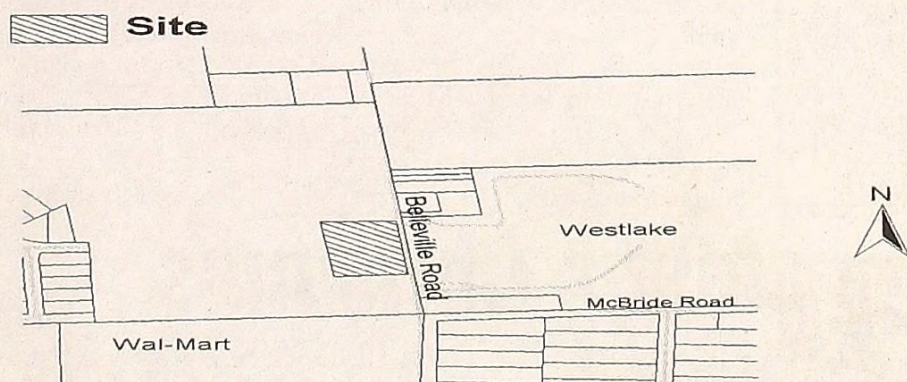
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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD OF TRUSTEES NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Charter Township of Van Buren Board of Trustees will hold a public hearing on Tuesday December 7, 2004 at 7:30 p.m., in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, Wayne County, Michigan

The Public Hearing relates to the following described property:

This is a portion of parcel with the tax ID number V-125-83-061-99-005-713. This property is located on the west side of Belleville Road within the Wal-mart Outlet. A map indicating the location of the subject site is included below.



The applicant, Walgreens requests an amendment to their Special Use Approval to remain open 24 hours per day per week at the existing store. The pharmacy and it's related drive-through window will also remain open 24 hours seven days a week. The property is zoned C-2, Extensive Highway Business District, and according to Article XII, Section 12.03(d), of the Zoning Ordinance, a drive-thru facility requires Special Use Approval by the Township Board. Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 5:00p.m., December 7, 2004, the hearing date.

In the spirit of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

Publish: November 25, 2004

CITY OF ROMULUS PUBLIC HEARING REQUEST FOR TAX ABATEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the Romulus City Council will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, December 13, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. in the Romulus City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174 to consider an Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate pursuant to P.A. 198 of 1974 as amended, for Southview Gladiolus Farms, 35935 Ecorse Road, Romulus, Michigan, 48174.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Land situated in the City of Romulus, Wayne County, Michigan, described as:

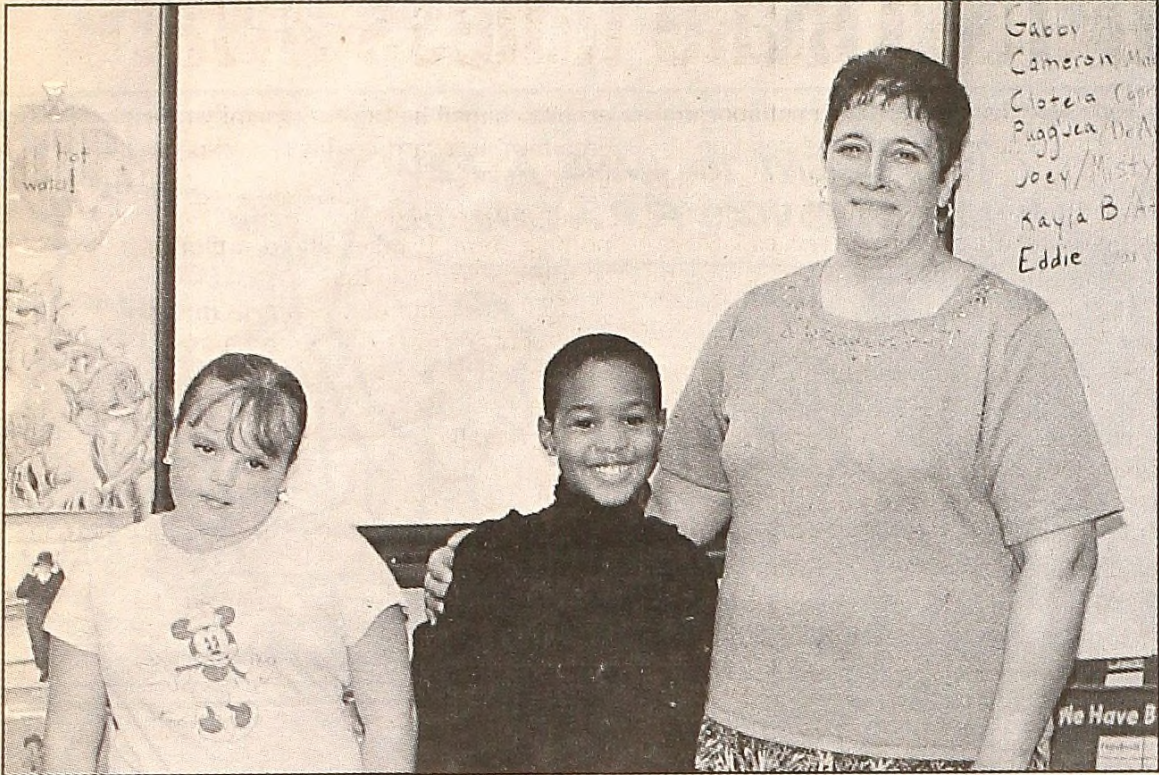
Part of the northeast 1/4 of section 8, town 3 south, range 9 east, City of romulus, Wayne County, Michigan, being more particularly described as follows: Beginning at a point on the centerline of Ecorse Road which is south 86 degrees 27 minutes 30 seconds east 758.86 feet from the north 1/4 corner of section 8, town 3 north, range 9 east; thence continuing south 86 degrees 27 minutes 30 seconds east 541.00 feet along said centerline of Ecorse Road (33 feet wide 1/2 right-of-way); thence south 00 degrees 01 minutes 54 seconds east 671.98 feet; thence north 88 degrees 32 minutes 25 seconds west 300.10 feet; thence north 00 degrees 01 minute 54 seconds west 100.03 feet; thence north 88 degrees 32 minutes 24 seconds west 240.44 feet; thence north 00 degrees 00 minutes 30 seconds east 591.59 feet to the point of beginning.
Parcel Identification Nos. part of 80-029-99-0006-000

This is an open meeting! All interested citizens are invited to attend, and will be given an opportunity to comment on the proposal. Written comments may be forwarded no later than December 13, 2004 at 12 o'clock noon to the attention of:

**City of Romulus
Linda R. Choate, City Clerk
11111 Wayne Road
Romulus, MI 48174-1485**

Linda R. Choate, CMC
City Clerk

Publish: November 25, 2004



Cory Elementary third grade teacher, Molly McGlynn said she uses her new smart board daily as she works with students Kayla VanBuren and Levell Keys.

Smart boards give students new way to learn

Ashley Lawrence
Staff Writer

Students at Cory Elementary School are learning things a little differently this year thanks to efforts of third grade teacher Molly McGlynn and Comprehensive School Reform Coordinator Joe Murphy.

McGlynn and Murphy have successfully authored a grant to bring new 'smart boards' to students.

"These smart boards are amazing," said McGlynn. "They are so helpful in teaching students, because the boards allow them to sort things out simply by using their hand."

The smart board in a combi-

nation of the old style projector that could print overlays onto a screen and a blackboard. The smart board allows McGlynn to go up to the board and write in teaching or learning aids over or under an item that students may have difficulty understanding.

"It is just like having a gigantic computer screen at their fingertips," she said, "and the best part is that their hand is the mouse that moves things around the screen."

Everything students see on the screen comes from a computer. McGlynn said she is able to create different lessons on the computer and they then transfer to the large screen. She is also able to use different websites on

the Internet for teaching purposes.

"It is terrific, because students can go up to the screen and write something on it using a special marker and what they wrote shows up on the screen," she said. "The students love using it and it gives them a chance to become involved in the lesson."

McGlynn said the smart boards have become an integral part of her teaching style as she uses it often throughout a typical day in her classroom.

"We are hopeful that eventually we will be able to have the smart boards in all of our classrooms," she said. "They are just so helpful, they amaze me."

Goodfellows

FROM PAGE 1

ner," said Martin.

Martin said the Goodfellows were thrilled to be able to give families this special treat, but she was not prepared for what came next.

The Goodfellows always tried to provide a gift to each child in a home, but sometimes that gift could be something that would be considered a necessity like a pair of mittens and a small toy. Then one day, the fire department received a large delivery.

"All of a sudden we began to receive a truck load of toys from a secret Santa," said Martin. "And these were not little toys by any means. There was every kind of toy you could imagine."

Martin said that this generous donation allowed them to provide the children with presents that their parents otherwise may not have been able to afford.

"It made these parents feel so good that they knew their children would have something under the tree Christmas morning," said Martin. "It allowed us to really make sure that there would be no child without a Christmas in Romulus."

Martin said the delivery of this truckload of toys continued for a number of years, but finally stopped about 7 years ago.

"This truckload of toys really helped us, because not only did it give kids presents, it is made other companies want to become involved in the project," said Martin. "It was definitely a catalyst."

Now, more than 300 Romulus families receive boxes of food

filled with holiday cuisine. If there are children in the home, they receive at least one big present along with smaller stocking stuffer presents for parents to give children.

The program has also expanded to include some senior citizens, said Martin.

"Sometimes the firefighter coming to the door delivering their Goodfellows package is the only type of Christmas these seniors will have," said Martin. "It may be the one visitor they get for the holidays."

Seniors living in the Senior Towers have also become involved in the Goodfellows program by purchasing items like gloves, hats and mittens throughout the year while on trips to various locations.

Although Martin is still strongly involved in the Goodfellows, she stepped down as coordinator last year, because she said it is so much work.

"It is just too much work for one person to do," she said. "So, a committee was formed with fire department, police and city employees to make things easier this year."

The Romulus Goodfellows will be accepting applications for assistance through 5 p.m. Dec. 10. Applications can be picked up in the mayor's office at city hall and Fire Station number four on Eureka Road.

To be eligible applicants must be able to show proof of income, picture identification and a recent utility bill.

The Goodfellows paper drive will be Friday Dec. 3 and Saturday Dec. 4. For more information on the Goodfellows or to make a donation call (734) 355-4577.

Missing

FROM PAGE 1

research was not able to find anything.

"We have not been able to find any signs of this woman contacting any member of her family during the last 28 years. She has also never applied for a credit card or changed her name. She just vanished," said

Leacher.

Henry Penny still lives in the same home located on the 33000 block of Ecorse Road.

Police have not identified Penny as a suspect, but they received a search warrant and last Tuesday went to the home to try to determine the existence of a corpse on the property. With the help of hydrogeologists from Michigan State University police were able to detect an anomaly under the cement. The following

dig then confirmed that there was nothing of importance under the surface.

Leacher said Penny denies that he had anything to do with his ex-wife's disappearance, and maintains that she ran off 28 years ago.

"Now, we are just waiting for someone else to come into the station looking to clear their conscience," said Leacher. "Until that time we are not able to move forward in the case."

Center

FROM PAGE 1

of the new senior center, the recreation department will have more space.

Mayor Alan Lambert said he was happy to be able to give the seniors a new center without making the residents of Romulus pay for it.

"We were able to pay for this project as we said we would," he said.

"I am happy to that we were able to keep our promise to the residents and give them this great new center.

Each year Romulus receives a sum of grant money for the CDBG fund. With this money, the city funds small projects such as purchasing new emergency vehicles or moving and restoring the Kingsley House. For the next 10 years the CDBG funds received will go to pay for the new senior center at no cost to residents.

The center is expected to be complete in November 2005.

Holiday calendar of events

Tree Lighting Ceremony set

The city Christmas tree will be lit with the help of Mayor Alan Lambert, Santa Claus and a special guest at 6 p.m. on Friday Dec. 3 at Historic Park. Lambert will also provide Santa with a key to the city. The event will then move to Progressive Hall, near Five Points, where refreshments will be served. Children can also tell Santa what they want for Christmas and get their picture taken with him. Pictures with Santa are \$2.

Lunch and story with Santa planned

Santa Claus will be making a stop at the Romulus Recreation Center located on Bibbins Road, from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Saturday Dec. 11, for hot dogs, refreshments and to read a story to children of all ages. The \$3 cost per child includes lunch. Pictures with Santa will also be available for \$2. Pre-registration for the event is required at the Recreation Center by Friday, Dec. 10.

House decorating contest announced

There is no such thing as too many Christmas lights in this annual Romulus house decorating contest. Register the name and address of the decorated home at the Recreation Center before noon on Dec. 8. Only outdoor decorations will be judged. Anyone interested in judging the contest can register at the recreation center, too. Cost of judging is \$1. Monetary prizes will be awarded to the top three homes.



Banding together

Members of the Romulus Middle School bands recently completed their fall schedule. The middle school marching band performed at the Romulus High School Homecoming parade, as well as other events alongside the high school marching band. The marching band then traveled to Halecreek Elementary School to lead the student body through the neighboring subdivision at the annual school Halloween parade. The concert and symphonic bands also concluded their fall schedule with performances at the Romulus annual "Band-o-Rama" program.

OPINION

The road to success

There's a certain bit of good old American ingenuity hidden in some seemingly routine actions taken recently by the Canton Township Board of Trustees.

The problem they set out to solve – providing intersection improvements – is one that has long vexed officials, motorists and pedestrians alike. The way they chose to attack it – by altering millage rates to funnel money from some departments to others, while keeping the overall rate the same – was the clearly the best solution possible.

Think about it. Townships are in an unusual, often lamentable position when it comes to their roadways. Their millage rates are generally lower than cities because they don't have the same responsibilities for the community roads. They don't maintain or plow them – the county does that – which means they don't have to buy all the equipment necessary. It also means that they are, for the most part, dependent on county funds to fix the major roads within their borders. And as anyone who has driven around Wayne County can attest, there is a long line of needed improvements, everywhere.

The complaints don't flow to Wayne County, of course, they hit to the locals first.

Now, Canton has attempted to fix its own roads before. Officials developed a comprehensive road improvement plan several years ago, when they pushed for a separate road improvement millage, but it was defeated by voters. Since then, they've taken several positive steps to improve relations with Wayne County and seen some of the improvements completed, anyway.

That's why the current plan is such a good one. It allows for increased cooperation between the township and the county, but also recognizes that, if these busy intersections are to receive any help on a timetable that will satisfy both residents and officials, the township has to step forward and do the work.

If there will be a difficulty, it will be in prioritizing the intersections that need improvement and developing the best plan for them. Safety should obviously come first, particularly because the plan involves for a decrease in the dedicated police and fire millages. Already several intersections along Cherry Hill have been discussed, at Haggerty Road and at Canton Center Road, as well as at Warren Road and Canton Center. We'd like to toss in the Sheldon-Cherry Hill intersection, too. If there are fewer accidents there than at other busy intersections, it can only be because the drivers are luckier. The narrow road and the grade change there can make for a harrowing turning experience.

But that is a debate for another day. For now, though, the folks at the township that developed the plan deserve a pat on the back. It'll go a long way to providing the relief that residents need.

A real vote of confidence

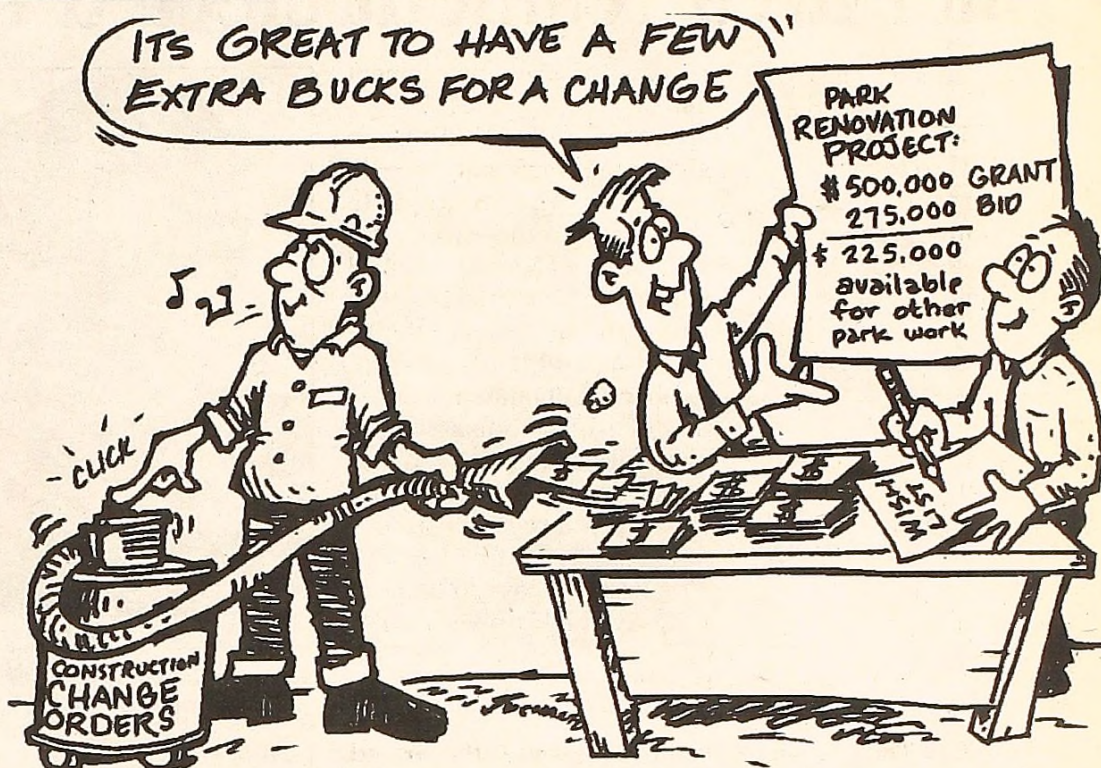
His voice choked with emotion, Wayne Police Chief Mike Sumeracki talked about the pride he felt in his department and his community Saturday afternoon.

He addressed a packed briefing room at the new police headquarters building on Michigan Avenue, but the people that crammed themselves into the room and spilled out into the hallway were not all in uniform; they had not all been members of the force at one time or another.

There was a strong police presence, of course, but there were also plenty of city officials, architects and police boosters: residents and business owners who wanted to bear witness to the historic dedication of the new facility.

The occasion was a perfect one to display such pride, too, because

See **Police**, page 5



Bid process is a slippery slope

It didn't take too long for the excitement to fade from the Attwood Park project here in Wayne – at least for me.

It wasn't too long ago that the project seemed to be gaining momentum, despite the loss of a grant that would have helped pay for it. Then the county stepped in, thanks in part to the efforts of County Commissioner John Sullivan. The \$500,000 grant from the county would pay for the whole project and leave about \$100,000 for other improvements.

Cool, I thought. Good job. City officials were also pleased – they had long wanted to tear down the hill, but the price tag was prohibitive for a community that has to constantly keep an eye on its budget.

Then the bids came in and the news was even better – a firm was willing to do the work for only \$271,200, which meant the hill would be torn down and replaced with soccer fields and there would be even more money left over for other improvements.

I should have known it was too good to be true.

The first change order came in last week, increasing the cost of the project from \$271,200 to \$365,425. The reason? Contractors found more concrete

than they expected, some old tires and other municipal waste that would be more expensive to handle.

My initial response was: So how was that our fault? Why do we have to foot the bill? And, how could they not know? City officials were actually suspicious of the bids when they came in, because the one set by Northline Excavating, was so much lower than all the others. They said they were going to communicate with the company, make them sure they knew what they were getting into and they could pull off the job. They knew it would be a complicated thing; knew that, beneath the inauspicious grassy slope lay a good portion of an old broken up road and God knew what else.

Apparently, they either didn't communicate that message effectively enough, or the company for some reason didn't get it.

I don't know who should get the wrist slap for that; I only know that I saw the costs going up and all the extra improvements for our parks system were just going to evaporate, put into the hands and wallets of contractors who most likely wouldn't even visit the place after they are done.

You could make the argument

that it's not a big deal. It's still cheaper than the initial \$400,000 estimate, and everyone knows estimates are just that – it's impossible to tell what a project like this will cost until the shovel hits the dirt. And it's not like it's the city's money anyway, right? It came from Wayne County, although technically, it came from our wallets, paid for through a county-wide park millage approved by us voters.

Still, it irks me, because the more money spent here will mean fewer improvements elsewhere. It's a domino effect. More things either get crossed off the wish list or added to the city side of the equation.

And I bet we haven't seen the final price tag, either. After all, there is still at least \$35,000 before the project hits the initial estimated budget, and by now the contractor probably knows there's \$500,000 available, all together. I wouldn't be surprised to see some more change orders come in until the project tops the first mark and heads for the second.

See **Hill**, page 5

Know the when and why of medication

I've been very fortunate that I've never had to take a lot of medications. Even now. But I know that many people take two, three or more different medications several times a day.

Now if you have to take medications, it's important to know what to do. It sounds simple but there's more to it than just swallowing some pills with a glass of water.

When your doctor gives you a prescription, be sure you know the name, what it's for, how to take the medicine and when to take it. If you're not sure, ask. Your doctor and pharmacist can answer your questions. And always let your doctor know if

you're taking other prescription drugs, over-the-counter medications, and any vitamins, herbs or dietary supplements.

It's a good idea to keep a list of medications and dosage in your wallet or purse. And give

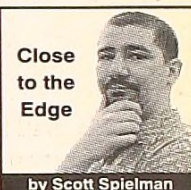
a copy to a family member or friend. Take your medications exactly as prescribed. Some need to be taken with food or at certain times. Just stick to the plan. Medications can be helpful. But to get the best effect, you have to take them properly and safely. And remember, take care of your health before it's longggg gone!

Ernie Harwell, "the voice of the

Detroit Tigers" for more than four decades, retired after 55 years

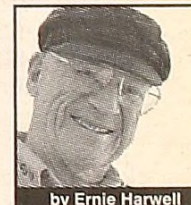
behind a major league microphone. Today, at age 86, Ernie's days are filled with serving as a health and fitness advocate for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network, public appearances, writing, traveling and taking long walks with "Miss Lulu," his wife of more than 60 years.

His latest book, a collection of his baseball columns titled "Life After Baseball," is available at local bookstores or by calling 1-800-245-5082.



Close to the Edge

by Scott Spielman



by Ernie Harwell

JOURNAL

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Making his mark

Former area resident elected vice-mayor of Sunnyvale

Scott Spielman
Editor

A former Wayne resident said he's looking forward to leaving his mark on Sunnyvale, CA – which has been described as the most admired city in the United States.

And Ron Swegles will get his chance, too. The 1962 graduate of Wayne Memorial High School was selected vice-mayor of the city by his colleagues on the seven-member city council.

"I'm honored for this opportunity to continue to serve the Sunnyvale community," he said. "This promises to be an exciting year for our city."

Swegles was elected to the city council in 2003. The council is elected at large from the city of about 132,000 and then the seven members appoint a mayor and a vice-mayor from their ranks. The city council is a part-time board and the city is run by a full-time city manager.

Swegles moved out to California about 20 years ago, he said. He now works at Brandenburg, Staedler and

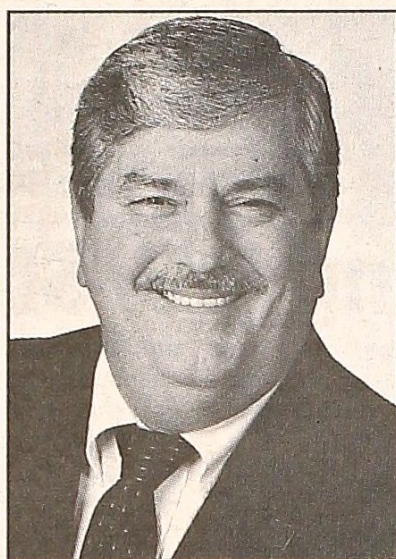
Moore, a property management firm.

He said he has long been active in the community, too. He served on the Sunnyvale Planning Commission, the Sunnyvale Parks and Recreation Commission, the Sunnyvale Senior Advisory Committee and the Sunnyvale Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. Like in many other communities, he said, activists typically get involved in volunteer areas before they consider a run for city council.

"I guess you have to be here for 30 years before you're not considered an outsider," he joked.

Sunnyvale is located in Silicon Valley and is the second largest city in Santa Clara County. The largest is San Jose. Sunnyvale is known for its high-tech business community – Yahoo is headquartered there.

It also reached national fame several years ago when then-President Bill Clinton visited to find out how the city administration worked its budget. They forecast out for 20 years and



Ron Swegles

they work from a 20-year budget plan.

"Even with all the reductions everyone has been dealing with, we haven't been hit all that hard because of our planning," he said.

The city is also unique in that its police officers and firefighters are cross-trained; police officers have firefighting gear in their trunks and if any member of one department gets burned

out or bored with their job they can transfer to the other.

"It's a pretty unique city," Swegles said.

He said he's long been interested in community service but hadn't had a chance to get into too much until he moved to California. He was involved in several clubs in high school, including the student council, but went into the service after he graduated. From there he worked for a commercial airline, which didn't leave much time for anything else but family.

Although Sunnyvale is drastically different than his hometown, the two cities share some issues. One of the things he'll work on as vice-mayor – and later, he hopes, as mayor – is a downtown revitalization project. Officials in Sunnyvale faced a choice that officials in Wayne faced, long ago: whether to bring in a regional shopping mall to the downtown area. While Wayne officials rejected the proposal, and the mall eventually went to their northern neighbors in Westland, officials in Sunnyvale embraced the con-

cept.

"The problem is they built it improperly, and now we're trying to revitalize it," he said.

He also plans to work on bringing in affordable housing to the upscale community.

Swegles will have a chance to be an international ambassador soon, too. He'll be a representative at the Baltic Trade and Investment Mission which will take place in London, England. Ambassadors from three other countries will meet there to brainstorm ideas about expanding the business community into Silicon Valley.

His family lived in Wayne all of his life. His father, James, still lives in the same house he moved into in 1958. He lived in another home in the city for 10 years before that. James, who calls out bingo at the Wayne Senior Activity Center, said he is not all that surprised that his son got into politics, either, citing his activities in high school. In fact, he wished him luck.

"I think he's getting in over his head," said James with a chuckle. "I know politicians."

Hill

FROM PAGE 4

I had mixed feelings about the removal of the sled hill in the first place. I enjoyed spending time on it with my son, Henry, but I recognized the need for the city to

remove it – it posed too much of a liability, there was too great a chance that some youngster would get hurt, whether on a sled or by ignoring the signs and riding their bikes down the jagged fissure on the north face.

Now, as the project gets increasingly more expensive, I wonder if we're even going to get our money's worth.

Police

FROM PAGE 4

the headquarters represents everything good about the residents of Wayne and the many municipal employees that serve them. It's the ultimate example of a promise made and a promise kept.

It's never an easy thing to ask residents for a tax increase – which is what the proposed millage levy was – regardless of how pressing the need or how well planned the proposal is. City officials learned that several years earlier, when voters defeated a similar request.

When they received their approval from voters in 2002, it was a time when millage requests were being rejected left and right throughout metro Detroit. It was during a difficult economic period when many residents in surrounding communities were calling for lower taxes and cuts in government spending.

The residents in the City of Wayne, though, from the volunteers that helped promote the cause to the people who planted signs on their lawns or in their windows, recognized the need.

Much of the credit for the successful millage campaign should go to the members of the police department themselves. When residents gave their positive votes on the tax increase, what they actually gave was a vote of confidence to the police department and the city itself. It was essentially a thank you for the solid work they do year-round, and an acknowledgement that the officers that keep our city safe deserved a better facility.

Certainly, the department deserves both: the confidence and the thank you. They have done a remarkable job keeping the community safe, starting up new programs, reaching out into the neighborhoods – all from an outdated, cramped facility. This new headquarters will truly meet the needs of the community, allow the police to do an even better job and it will serve the department long into the future.

And, if the past is any indicator, it promises to be a fine future indeed.

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TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

Year End Tax Planning Is A Smart Business Move



As year-end rapidly approaches, every business should review its options for cutting income taxes for 2004. Undoubtedly you've been doing tax planning throughout the year, but here are some last-minute strategies you shouldn't overlook.

If you were planning to purchase

business equipment before long, you should analyze whether squeezing your purchase into 2004 is a good tax move. You can expense up to \$102,000 of business equipment placed into service this year. But be careful if a new purchase before year-end will push total equipment purchases for the year over \$410,000 or if it means that more than 40% of all equipment you've purchased this year was purchased in the fourth quarter. The rules will limit your expensing or depreciation deductions if you are over these limits.

Tax rates on stock dividends are now at a 15% maximum. If your business corporation holds substantial

accumulated earnings, consider distributing some to yourself as a dividend.

Consider end-of-year inventory write-downs. If your inventory has declined in value, you may be able to claim a deduction at year-end. To do so, you must make a bona fide offer to sell the inventory at the lower price.

Make sure you are using retirement plans to minimize your tax bill. Get details to help you decide which plan is best for your business, and what the

requirements are to give you the best tax break for 2004.

If you are a shareholder in an S corporation that will have a tax loss this year, check your basis before year-end to be sure you will be able to utilize the loss on your tax return.

Investing time right now for a year-end review of your business's tax situation will assure you of paying no more tax than necessary. For assistance with your year-end tax review, contact our office.

Listen to Fred Grant's radio show "Inside Small Business" every weekend on or call Fred at 734-455-1040



Understanding Your Homeowners' Coverage Needs

A homeowners policy is one of the most comprehensive policies you own. Items stolen on vacation? Homeowners insurance provides replacement coverage. Delivery guy trips on your patio? Liability coverage helps foot the bill. CDs stolen from your car? Once again, homeowners insurance to the rescue.

While homeowners insurance covers many things, it provides limited or no coverage for certain areas. In most cases an endorsement can help provide more extensive coverage for those items not included in a standard policy.

To help identify if you may need extra coverage, talk with your agent about your individual situation to determine what coverage is right for you.

Jewelry, computers, and collections of fine art are all examples of items that are often irreplaceable, both in terms of cost and sentimental value. If you don't have the right coverage you could receive little or no coverage in the event of a loss. For example, if you have more than \$1,000 in jewelry you might want to add coverage to your homeowners policy. Issues related to water sewer backups and building code upgrades are also good reasons for adding coverage.

You have two options. Increasing the limit on your policy will provide additional coverage and at an affordable price. You also can "schedule" your collection. This provides a more extensive risk and perils policy for your valuable possessions.

Because everyone's situation is unique, it's difficult for agents to align the appropriate coverage without your input. Periodically talking with your agent to review your current coverage, the features of your home and your valuables can help you understand your current policy and identify additional coverage needs. It's better to find out you have a gap in coverage before a loss rather than after you file a claim.

Contact: Karen Nemier - Nationwide Insurance - 9376 Lilley Road - Plymouth MI, 48170 - (734) 454-4058.



Karen Nemier
Nationwide Insurance

It Really Is About Covering Your Assets

We discussed documenting assets for new home purchases, when in "demand" type accounts, i.e. savings, checking and money markets. What if the down payment isn't coming from a demand account?

What if it is in stocks, bonds or mutual funds?

Often, down payments come from any number of sources. What will lenders want for "investment" accounts?

These are usually owned through brokerages. Account holders receive monthly or quarterly statements. You will need to provide the lender with your most recent 30 or 60-day history. Provide all pages, even if blank or showing service contact information. If you are selling shares, "paper trail" the transaction period. Include a copy of the check and the deposit receipt. These funds typically are not guaranteed. Meaning, your bank will hold these monies until cleared. Please allow sufficient time.

For Internet accounts, printed screens are typically unacceptable. Requirements do vary so check to determine what is satisfactory.

Stock certificates, though rare, must be copied along with tax records to verify time of ownership.

"Investment" accounts used for down payment must be verified like "demand" accounts. It is essential to qualifying and closing on your loan for your new home. Always consult your loan officer for specific requirements. For further information, contact Nelson Wilson at 1-800-LOW-WEST



Nelson Wilson
AVP-Senior Loan Officer
The West Team/Chase Home Finance

"Investment" accounts used for down payment must be verified like "demand" accounts. It is essential to qualifying and closing on your loan for your new home."

How Many MUTUAL FUNDS is too many?

You've probably heard for years that diversification is one of the keys to successful money management. And as many employees of scandalized companies have recently learned, lack of diversification can mean the difference between a comfortable retirement and possibly none at all. (Note however that diversification does not ensure a profit or protect against loss in a declining market). But are you one of those investors who collect mutual funds like other people take aspirin? If two are good, then four must be better?

It's easy to get into a rut of owning an overabundance of funds. You might have a few that you've owned for decades, several more that you recently bought because they were hot performers, and some in your IRA that got rolled over from your 401(k) plan. But what has this accomplished? Could you possibly have diversified yourself to the point of diminishing returns and now have done more harm than good?

So, how many funds are too many? There is no magic number and each investor's situation is different. But think about how much time you spend monitoring your portfolio. Mutual funds were meant to make life simpler. Suppose your financial plan calls for a specific balance of asset classes. And each year you make adjustments among your investments in order to maintain that balance. This means that you would sell part of the asset classes that have done well and buy more of the asset classes that have fallen behind. The more funds you own, the more complicated this becomes, and the greater the possibility of sizable capital gains taxes.

Over-diversification might possibly increase portfolio risk. What if two of your funds are large-cap, growth-oriented and both have large holdings in the same stock? If that stock were to take a dive, both of your investments would suffer. After many years of investing, you may not be sure whether or not you own too many funds. This might be a good time to go over them and think about why you bought each one. Would you still buy them today? Have any funds changed their investment styles over the years? Is there overlap of investments?

If you think that your basket of mutual funds has become too overwhelming to manage or there might be investment overlap resulting in less diversification and greater risk, consider the capital gains tax possibilities before you start consolidating. Call 734-844-3400 for more information.



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Curtain going up Benefit to aid 2 causes

Scott Spielman
Editor

Members of the Stage Door fundraising organization hope that the Wayne Community Theater groups won't be the only beneficiaries at their upcoming fundraiser.

The group is putting on a wine and cheese party fundraiser from 7:30-11 p.m. on Dec. 3 to benefit the program and, and a separate fundraiser at the same time to benefit a Westland family whose house recently caught fire.

"We're going to have a fundraiser within a fundraiser," said Bill Spurlin, president of Stage Door.

Tickets for the wine and cheese event will be \$18 for adults and \$15 for seniors. That will give attendees wine, light hors d'oeuvres and cabaret style entertainment. The proceeds from the ticket sales will benefit the theater, he said.

There will also be a 50/50 raffle and a separate collection dish to benefit the Boone family, who recently lost their home to a fire.

Spurlin said he came up with the idea about a week ago. In his day job, he's a supervisor at the Westland Post Office, where Cathy Boone works. He learned about her misfortune there and wanted to do something to help.

"They basically lost everything," he said. "They had to put holes in the walls to put some of the fires out." Boone and her husband, Jerome, have four children, aged between 6 and 16 years old. Since they rent the home, they are getting hassled by the insurance company, as well.

Stage Door was formed last year to gather donations from the community so that the theater programs would receive a smaller and smaller subsidy from the City of Wayne, until they are completely self-supportive.

The initial thought was to split the proceeds of the event between the family and the theater, but that didn't quite work out, so Spurlin pitched the combined fundraiser. He said that might draw more people to the fundraiser, in general, which would help out both causes, in the end.

"It's going to benefit us in the long run," he said. "Obviously, we're hoping it goes over well."

The fundraiser itself will take place at the Wayne Senior Activity Center, on Wayne Road and Sims Avenue, according to Colleen Meyer, arts and entertainment supervisor for the city. She said it was designed to be a nice relaxing evening out.

Tickets are on sale now at the Wayne Community Center at Howe and Annapolis roads. For more information call the center at (734) 721-7400.

The Wayne Community theater is looking for a few actors for future productions.

Auditions for the 6th Annual Murder Mystery "Rehearsal for Murder" will take place at the Wayne Library at 7 p.m. on Dec. 13 and 14 Performance dates will be Feb. 5-6.

Stage Door will also host an informational meeting for potential actors, singers and all those who would like to participate in the new comedy dinner theatre show "Homer Buford's Hillbilly Wake." The show will take place on Friday, Jan. 28, at the Wayne Community Center. For more information call (734) 721-7400.

ABSTRACT

WAYNE CITY COUNCIL MEETING NO. 2004-33 November 16, 2004

Regular Meeting of the City Council held Tuesday, November 16, 2004 at 8:00 p.m. at Wayne City Hall, 3355 South Wayne Rd. All members present. Held public hearing & first reading of proposed amendment to Sections 1238.03 (c) & (d) R-1AA regarding Single Family Residential District. APPROVED: minutes of Special Meeting of November 1, 2004 and Regular Meeting of November 2, 2004; site plans #2004-37, Jus'Shooz', 35002 Michigan Avenue West, #2004-38, Grace African Hair Braiding, 4306 South Wayne Road, #2004-39, Johnson's Express Car Wash, 34445 Michigan Avenue; #2004-40, Community Living Services, 35425 Michigan Avenue West; first reading of a proposed Nuisance Ordinance, second reading and adoption of an amendment to the ordinance regarding Special Event Permits; change order no. 2/final for City Hall Parking Lot Storm Water Quality Improvement Project; agreement for the provision of sanitary sewer services to 36124 Glenwood Road; Change Order No. 1 with Northline Excavating for labor, equipment and the disposal of debris from the Attwood Park Sled Hill Project; resolution to MDOT, designating assistant city manager as maintenance superintendent; emergency payment for repairs to Parks & Recreation flooring; acceptance of a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice for the Secure our Schools Initiative; professional services agreement with Advance Cardiac Education for advance cardiac life support re-certification training; declaration of 35218 Michigan Avenue a hazard/nuisance; professional services agreement with Ann Arbor Credit Bureau for collection services; appointment of new Fire Chief. Called a Special Meeting for November 30, 2004 at 6:00 p.m. at the Wayne Public Library to hear a presentation about a proposed planning procedure for Downtown Wayne. Called a Public Hearing for December 21, 2004 at 8:00 p.m. to consider; an amendment to the Limited Business (B-1) Zoning District concerning Boarding & Rooming Houses; rezoning the lots along the south side of Michigan Avenue East from Washington to First Streets from Industrial Business (IND-B) to Limited Business (B-1); an amendment to the Business Intensive (B-4) Zoning District regarding Multi-Family Dwellings and; rezoning the lots along the north side of Michigan Avenue West, from 35540 Michigan Avenue West to 36046 Michigan Avenue West from Business Extensive (B-3) to Business Intensive (B-4). Received and filed Communications & Reports & Consent Calendar. Adjourned to Closed Session at 9:00 p.m. to discuss labor negotiations, the purchase of real estate and specific pending litigation.

Jennifer A. Wagner
Deputy City Clerk

Publish: November 25, 2004

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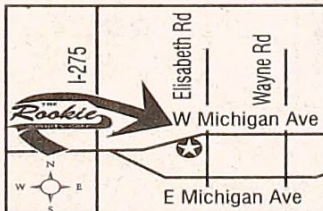
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'Tis the season Police warn of holiday frauds, Internet credit crimes

Meghan Chatham
Staff Writer

'Tis the season to be cautious.

"There's always a huge increase in fraud around the holidays," said Erin Diamond, an inspector with the Wayne County Sheriff's Department Internet Crimes Unit. He added that his department routinely experiences a sharp spike in reports of problems around February, when shoppers start to receive the bills for their Christmas purchases.

Whether they shop in traditional brick and mortar stores or prefer to use the Internet to make their purchases, Diamond said that there are several simple steps people can take to help prevent themselves from becoming one of the hundreds of victims of identity theft and credit card fraud who contact his office after the holidays.

Regardless of how a transaction is made, Diamond said that is very important to be organized.

"Set aside, in one place, all of your shopping receipts," he said. For instance, he recommends using a receipt spike or small box to keep all of your documentations—including credit and debit card receipts—together until the bills arrive.

When the bills start to arrive,

Diamond said that people should check those receipts against the bills because fraudulent charges won't necessarily be obvious. In fact, he said that while people often envision false charges as huge transactions that they would notice easily, this misconception could put them at risk of paying for items they didn't purchase.

"The criminals know that if they put such a small amount on the card—\$12, \$15, \$20—it's harder to catch," said Diamond. "Criminals know there is a threshold for prosecution."

Oftentimes when the amount of the disputed transaction is very low and the cost of an investigation is high, Diamond said that a credit card company might opt to simply reverse the charges without a major investigation into how those charges were made in the first place.

Help can be found through the credit card companies, as well. Diamond recommended that shoppers take advantage of fraud protection services if their credit card company offers them. In addition, he said that users might want to consider checking with the company to find out if they can access real-time transaction data, instead of being forced to wait for their monthly statement to arrive to check the payments

The criminals know that if they put such a small amount on the card—\$12, \$15, \$20—it's harder to catch. Criminals know there is a threshold for prosecution.

Erin Diamond

posted to their account.

"If someone has stolen your identity, they have 30 days with your credit card," said Diamond. If the updated data is routinely monitored, however, he said that a criminal could have access to the working card for only a matter of hours.

Debit card transactions should also be monitored carefully, he said, since they too can be used to make fraudulent transactions. He noted that as problems with debit cards are reported with increasing frequency, one of the most common places for problems is automated gas pump purchases, since some pumps do not ask the user to enter a personal identification number.

While Diamond said that he highly recommends writing 'See I.D.' in bright ink—such as a red Sharpie marker—on the back of credit or debit cards rather than signing them, shoppers shouldn't rely on merchants to abide by

their request. He noted that some retailers even discourage their employees from asking for the requested identification out of fear of offending their patron.

It is a problem Diamond has seen firsthand. Despite writing 'See I.D.' on his credit cards, he said that about half of merchants still do not ask him for identification. He said that anyone who owns a store would do their customers a favor if they would just remind their employees to check identification.

Shoppers should also take time to destroy, rather than simply throw out, the carbons from retailers who still use carbon paper receipts. While these types of receipts aren't very common, Diamond said that they are still in use and that by simply tossing the carbon in the trash, people increase the risk of someone hijacking their information.

Diamond said that the best defense shoppers against internet comes from four steps. First,

he said that the buyer should make sure that all of their Windows updates are done. He said that while Microsoft does a good job with their security, it doesn't help a user if their protection is outdated. He also strongly encouraged shoppers to run a spyware detector program and an up-to-date antivirus program before entering any personal information to help prevent that information from being relayed somewhere it wasn't intended to go. And finally, he said that people should try to buy from the online version of stores they know to help keep the chances of fraud to a minimum.

When a shopper needs to buy something from an unknown online retailer, Diamond said that shopper should see if there is a contact phone number listed on the site. Legitimate merchants, he said, are usually willing to speak with their customers, so if a phone number is not readily available or doesn't work, it may be a sign the buyer should reconsider his or her purchase.

"If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is," he said.

If a shopper finds fraudulent charges on their credit card, Diamond said that the first thing they should do is to alert their credit card company, and through them the credit bureaus.

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Incentives.....\$2000.00

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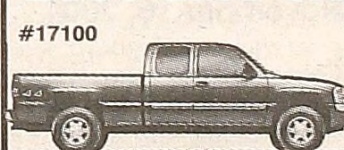
#17102

24 mo./24,000 mile lease
\$259* mo.

MSRP.....\$27,140.00
Employee Discount.....\$3,231.87
Incentives.....\$5000.00

Sale Price
\$18,908¹³*

2005 GMC Sierra Crew Cab



#17100

24 mo./24,000 mile lease
\$299* mo.

MSRP.....\$37,533.00
Employee Discount.....\$7704.43
Incentives.....\$4000.00

Sale Price
\$25,828*

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#17099

24 mo./24,000 mile lease
\$195* mo.

MSRP.....\$24,810.00
Employee Discount.....\$3362.00
Incentives.....\$4500.00

Sale Price
\$16,948*

2005 Buick LaCrosse



24 mo./24,000 mile lease
\$269* mo.

MSRP.....\$27,690.00
Employee Discount.....\$3055.82
Incentives.....\$2000.00

Sale Price
\$21,578³⁶*

2005 GMC Envoy XL



24 mo./24,000 mile lease
\$239* mo.

MSRP.....\$34,770.00
Employee Discount.....\$5036.05
Incentives.....\$5250.00

Sale Price
\$24,483⁹⁵*

2005 Pontiac GXP Bonneville



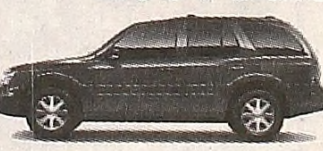
#17105

24 mo./24,000 mile lease
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MSRP.....\$28,265.00
Employee Discount.....\$4279.72
Incentives.....\$3500.00

Sale Price
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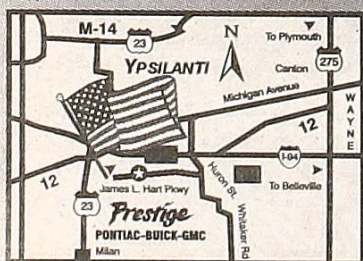
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Family business

Local 'Santa' assumes role played by grandfather, uncle

Scott Spielman
Editor

Jim Frobe is not the real Santa Claus, of course.

But the Westland resident, at 6-feet-tall and about 300 pounds, bears a striking resemblance to the traditional Christmas icon and he said he likes to help St. Nick out during the holiday season.

There are always plenty of parades and Christmas events to attend, and the real Santa can't make all of them, naturally, so he relies on legions of men like Frobe to carry out a portion of his seasonal duties.

"It's fun," he said. "I have a good time with it."

Portraying Santa Claus is actually a family tradition, he said. It started with his grandfather, who emigrated to the United States from Austria during 1945. He moved to Pittsburgh, where he worked for the Pittsburgh Streets and Railways company, driving streetcars at a time when they were pulled by horses. When he retired, years later, the electronic age had already taken over.

Then his uncle, Ralph took over and used the traditional Santa suit for another 8-10 years before offering it to Jim, who was at the time young and skinny - with dark hair.

Back then he used padding and a fake beard.

"I just did it occasionally," he said. "When people called, I'd go out."

That changed in 1990, when he was at the Westland Mall, when he heard a deep voice call out to him: "We've got to talk."

It was the mall manager at the time. He told Frobe that he was in dire need of a mall Santa, and was running out of options.

Frobe agreed. He's since played the role of Santa Claus there, at the Livonia Park Place mall and at the Livonia Mall. He retired from that about 2 years ago and has been a freelance Santa ever since.

The question he gets asked most frequently? Are you the real Santa?

With natural white, shaggy hair and a natural beard, he may look it, but Frobe said there are plenty of ways to answer that question. Many, of course, involve not giving the child a direct answer, using such phrases as: well, what do you think?

If pressed, there is an official response.

"The officials answer is 'I represent the spirit of Christmas: love and giving,'" Frobe said. He learned that at the official school for Santas in Midland, MI. He regularly attends the school for



Westland resident Jim Frobe helps out Santa Claus in places throughout the community, attending events to which St. Nick can't make it.

refresher courses.

The beard, which usually grows into its fuzzy fullness in late November or December, has a bit of a history on its own. It started out as a handlebar mustache that Frobe grew while he was in the service. He was a musician in the Navy, where he said his job was to stay out of the way of people who had something to do.

"It started out as an act of defiance," he said of his facial hair. "My father detested facial hair. We tussled over sideburns."

He keeps the beard year-

round, but trims it for the first few months of the year. Since it grows at about half an inch a month, he said he normally stops trimming it down in May.

That means he spends a large portion of the year looking a lot like Santa Claus, even in his civvies. Frobe said he takes that very seriously, too, even when vacationing down in Florida, getting tan on the beach he falls into character when approached by children.

"If you don't, you're send a really horrible message to the children," he said.

Playing Santa isn't as easy as it used to be, either. There are privacy allows to respect, background checks to go through as well. It's not as spontaneous as it used to be, but Frobe said it's all well worth it.

"For six weeks out of the year, kids can join Santa is sweeping aside some of the harsher aspects of life - some of the fear, some of the worry - and just be a kid," Frobe said. "You play into that. You do the best you can give the kids - for the time they're with you, at least - a bit of a break."

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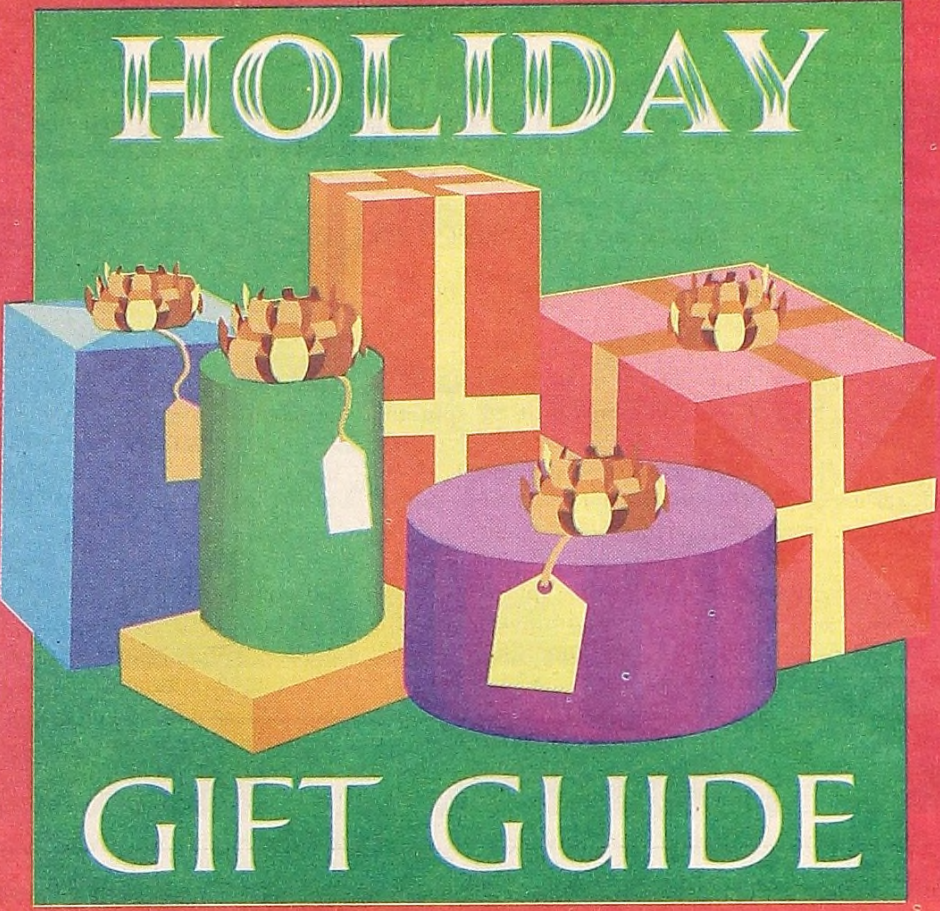
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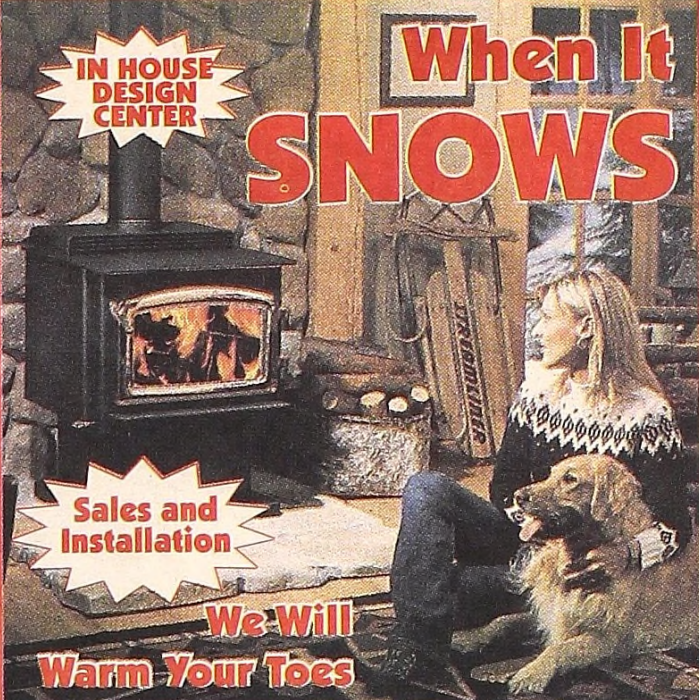
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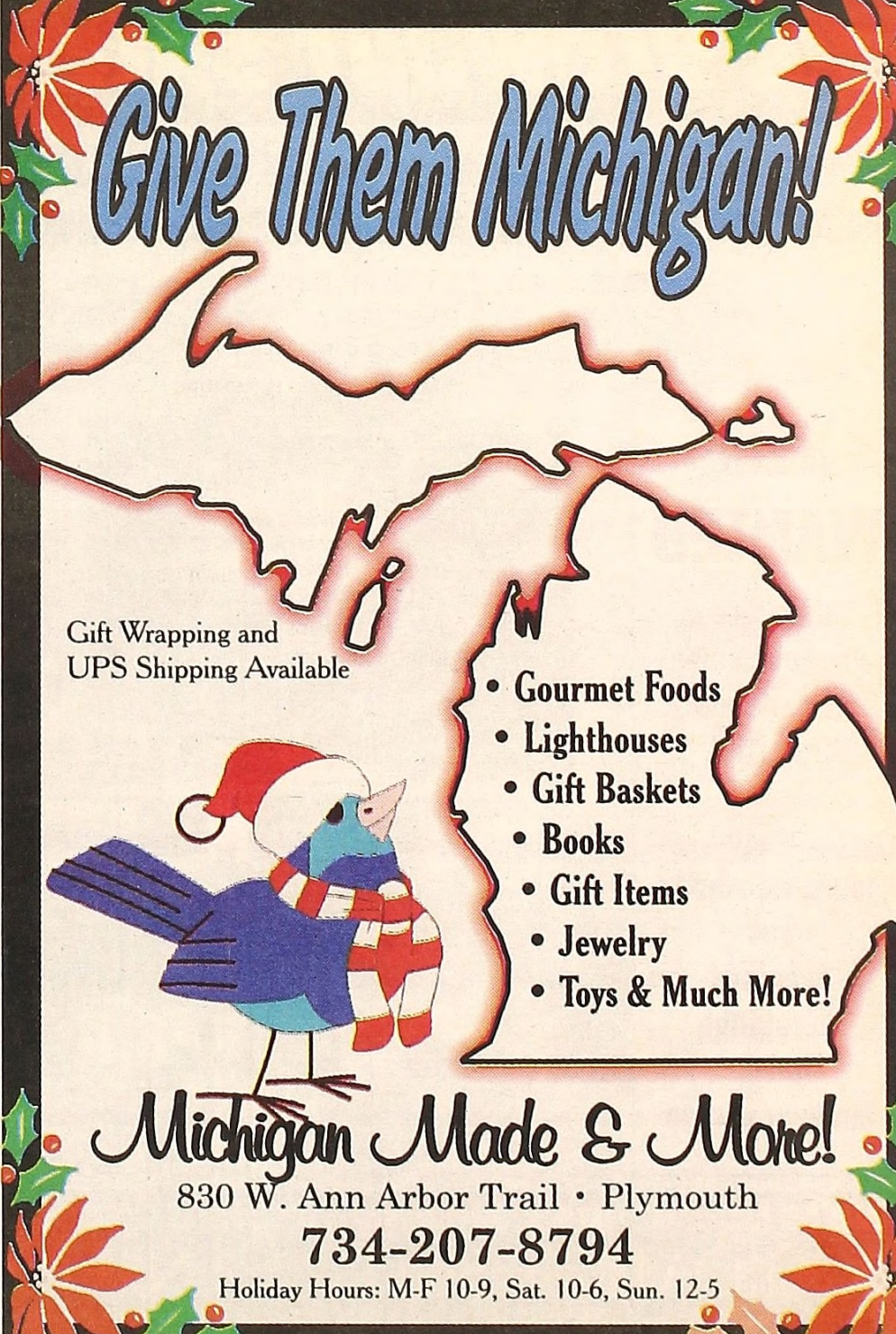
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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 16, 2004

Supervisor King called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor King, Clerk Payne, Treasurer Budd, Trustee Herman and Trustee Jahr. Absent and excused: Trustee Hart and Trustee Rochowiak. Others in attendance: Planning and Economic Development Director Kelley, Recreation and Facilities Director Ross, Deputy Public Safety Director Smolen, Lieutenant Brooks, Planning and Zoning Administrator Pugsley, Executive Assistant Ireland, Secretary Cline and an audience of fifteen (15).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Jahr moved, Herman seconded to approve the agenda with the following amendment: remove New Business Item #2 “Consider the first reading of Ordinance 11-16-04, to amend the Township Zoning Ordinance 06-02-92, as amended, to revise regulations pertaining to Woodland and Tree Preservation in Article IV-General Provisions, Section 4.45.E.-Woodland and Tree Preservation.”. Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: Herman moved, Jahr seconded to open the public hearing to receive public comment on a special use approval request from Corby Energy Services, Inc. for outdoor storage of material and equipment on a parcel of land known as V125-83-017-99-0014-701, zoned M-2 (General Industrial) located on the east side of Schooner Drive between Beck and Denton Roads. Carried.

Supervisor King opened the public hearing and went to Administrator Pugsley for an explanation. Administrator Pugsley stated the applicant, Corby Energy Services, Inc., is requesting a special use approval to operate an underground utility construction business with outdoor storage of material and equipment on property formerly occupied by Howard Industries who operated a trucking terminal. This 22-acre parcel of land is located south of Michigan Avenue, between Denton and Beck Roads and on the east side of Schooner Drive. Corby Energy Services, Inc. will be consolidating several operations into a headquarters at the Van Buren Township facility with approximately 125 employees. Further, they are the industry leader in trench-less technologies in Southeastern Michigan some of their clients include DTE, SBC, Comcast and Consumers Energy. The Planning Commission held a public hearing on October 13, 2004, and no public comments were received from residents; however, a favorable recommendation of this use was offered by DeMattia the developers of this Industrial Park. All of the requirements of the Zoning ordinance have been met with the following exceptions: 1) Storage bins and asphalt paving in the storage yard to be noted on the site plan. 2) Provision of an open emergency access aisle to the east side of the storage yard in the access easement to be noted on the site plan. 3) Clarification by the applicant of the methods to remove mud and similar debris from equipment. Also, subject to final site plan approval by the Planning Commission conditional on the Boards approval of this special use. Supervisor King stated the Planning Commission recommends this special use approval. Trustee Herman stated the Planning Commission reviewed this site plan and agreed this is a good new use for the former truck terminal. Trustee Jahr inquired about the clarification of the mud removal. Administrator Pugsley stated the removal method would be noted on the site plan with final approval from the Planning Commission. Scott Wilfong, the applicant’s representative stated the three items mentioned have been added on the new site plans to be reviewed by the Planning Commission.

There being no further discussion, a motion was made to close the public hearing.

Jahr moved, Payne seconded to close the public hearing. Carried.

MINUTES: Budd moved, Herman seconded to approve the Work Study Session Minutes of October 18, 2004 as presented. Carried.

Payne moved, Budd seconded to approve the Closed Session Meeting Minutes of October 18, 2004 as presented. Carried.

Herman moved Jahr seconded to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of October 19, 2004 as presented. Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: Director Ross announced Van Buren Township is the recipient of the Governors Council for promoting active communities award for the third consecutive year.

Yard waste pick up in Van Buren Township will end the last full week of November.

A letter of thanks from Wayne County Airport Authority Fire Rescue Service for the assistance given by the Van Buren Fire Department during a recent fire at Willow Run Airport Yankee Air Museum.

A letter of thanks from Washtenaw Community College Criminal Justice Department for the presentation on “Women in Policing” given by Police Officer Hamblin.

Correspondence from the Belleville and Van Buren Public Goodfellows requesting donations for their annual “No child without a Christmas” for more information contact Van Buren Township Public Safety Department at 734.699.8930.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Herman moved, Payne seconded to approve the special use approval request by Corby Energy Services, Inc. to operate an underground utility construction business with outdoor storage of material and equipment used in the business subject to: 1) Planning Commission approval of the storage bins and the asphalt paving in the storage yard, as noted in Comments 2 (a) and 2 (e) of McKenna’s special land use review letter dated October 27, 2004. 2) Provision of an open emergency access aisle to the east side of the storage yard in the access easement, as noted in Comments 2 (d) of McKenna’s special land use review letter dated October 27, 2004. 3) Clarification by the applicant of mud and similar debris from being deposited on adjacent roadways. 4) Final site plan approval by the Planning Commission. Carried.

Payne moved, Herman seconded to approve the Planned Residential Developmental (PRD) Agreement between Van Buren Township and Cobblestone Development,

L.L.C. for the development and construction of Cobblestone Ridge Manor Site Condominiums, an attached condominium development, and Cobblestone Ridge Estates Site Condominiums, a detached condominium development known generally as Cobblestone Ridge Condominiums, per the recommendations and approvals by the Township Planning Commission, the Township’s Planning Consultant in a letter dated September 15, 2004, a letter from the Township’s Engineering Consultant, dated July 23, 2004 and a letter from the Township’s legal counsel dated September 3, 2004; and to authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to execute the agreement. Carried.

Jahr moved, Budd seconded to adopt the 2005 Holiday Calendar. Carried.

Payne moved, Budd seconded to adopt the 2005 Work Study Session and Regular Meeting Calendar. Carried.

Budd moved, Herman seconded to allow Trustee Jahr to abstain from voting on New Business Item #5 “Consider approval of the split and combination of parcels V125-83-054-01-0020-000, lot 20 Andover Farms Subdivision #1, V125-83-054-01-0021-000, lot 21 Andover Farms Subdivision #1, V125-83-054-01-0022-000, lot 22 Andover Farms Subdivision #1, V125-83-054-04-0217-400, Andover Park and V125-83-054-99-0001-702, Bayfield West, Inc. (Rolan Meadows).” Carried.

Budd moved, Herman seconded to approve the split and combination of parcels V125-83-054-01-0020-000, lot 20 Andover Farms Subdivision #1, V125-83-054-01-0021-000, lot 21 Andover Farms Subdivision #1, V125-83-054-01-0022-000, lot 22 Andover Farms Subdivision #1, V125-83-054-04-0217-400, Andover Park and V125-83-054-99-0001-702, Bayfield West, Inc. (Rolan Meadows) and specifically noting items one through six of the Parcel Division Board’s memorandum dated October 25, 2004 as follows: 1) Approval in no way changes zoning requirements for the parcel. 2) The cost of any and/or all-utility improvements will be borne by the property owner(s). 3) Approval in now way implies or guarantees permits and/or approvals from federal, state, county or local agencies; this will include but not be limited to roadway access point(s), natural feature requirements or any other valid requirements from regulatory agencies. 4) Submission of a survey by a registered land surveyor for the requested parcel. 5) Payment of any fees and/or costs. 6) Approval will be valid for six months. Roll Call Vote: Yeas: King, Payne, Budd and Herman. Nays: None. Absent and excused: Herman and Rochowiak. Abstention: Jahr. Carried.

Payne moved, Jahr seconded to approve the split and combination of parcels V125-83-094-01-0213-306 part of lot 213 Supervisors Van Buren Plat #6, V125-83-094-01-0213-308 part of lot 213, Supervisors Van Buren Plat #6, V125-83-094-01-0213-310 part of lot 213, Supervisors Van Buren Plat #6 and V125-83-094-01-0213-311 part of lot 213, Supervisors Van Buren Plat #6 and specifically noting items one through six of the Parcel Division Board’s memorandum dated October 26, 2004 as follows: 1) Approval in no way changes zoning requirements for the parcel. 2) The cost of any and/or all-utility improvements will be borne by the property owner(s). 3) Approval in now way implies or guarantees permits and/or approvals from federal, state, county or local agencies; this will include but not be limited to roadway access point(s), natural feature requirements or any other valid requirements from regulatory agencies. 4) Submission of a survey by a registered land surveyor for the requested parcel. 5) Payment of any fees and/or costs. 6) Approval will be valid for six months. Carried.

Jahr moved, Herman seconded to adopt Resolution 2004-36 approving and authorizing the full and necessary participation of Van Buren Township in the Joint Management Committee for the Downriver Sewage Disposal system pursuant to the terms and conditions set forth in Exhibit A (Joint Management Committee Memorandum of Understanding Second Revision dated November 1, 2004); and to authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to execute the document. Carried.

Payne moved, Budd seconded to approve the combination of the parcels V125-83-083-01-0029-000 through V125-83-083-01-0035-000, lots 29 through 35, McMullan Bros. Huron Hills Subdivision, including North ½ adjacent vacated alley and specifically noting items one through six of the Parcel Division Board’s memorandum dated October 26, 2004 as follows: 1) Approval in no way changes zoning requirements for the parcel. 2) The cost of any and/or all-utility improvements will be borne by the property owner(s). 3) Approval in now way implies or guarantees permits and/or approvals from federal, state, county or local agencies; this will include but not be limited to roadway access point(s), natural feature requirements or any other valid requirements from regulatory agencies. 4) Submission of a survey by a registered land surveyor for the requested parcel. 5) Payment of any fees and/or costs. 6) Approval will be valid for six months. Carried.

Payne moved, Budd seconded to adopt Resolution 2004-37 Municipal Employees’ Retirement System (MERS) Resolution for Police Officers Labor Council Patrol and Dispatch Unit. Carried.

Budd moved, Herman seconded to adopt Resolution 2004-38 Municipal Employees’ Retirement System (MERS) Resolution for Police Officers Labor Council Command Division. Carried.

Herman moved, Jahr seconded to adopt Resolution 2004-39 to approve the storm water management system and maintenance repair agreement between Van Buren Township and Sadek Properties, L.L.C. and to authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to execute the agreement. Carried.

Budd moved, Jahr seconded to approve the Treasurer’s request to extend without penalty the collection of the 2004 winter taxes through Monday, February 28, 2005. Carried.

VOUCHER LIST: Budd moved, Herman seconded to approve the November 2, 2004 and November 16, 2004 voucher lists as presented. Carried.

REPORTS: Supervisor King ordered the October 2004 Budgetary and October 2004 Public Safety Reports received and filed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Township Administrative Offices will be closed on Thursday, November 25th and Friday, November 26th for the Thanksgiving holiday.

The Recreation Department has the following programs and events. The 2004 ‘Holiday Arts and Craft Show’ will be held on Saturday, December 4th from 9:00

Tea to benefit ‘Girlstown’

Andrea King
Staff Writer

Women from the September Days Senior Center in Van Buren Township are giving a new meaning to tea time with a fundraising event for the Girlstown Foundation in Belleville.

Sarah Scherdt, senior coordinator at the center, said that the members wanted to try something new this year to generate funds for the child-welfare agency.

“One of our members, Janet Moran, approached me with the idea,” said Scherdt. “She mentioned that she had attended a benefit in Romulus for the foundation and thought that Van Buren Township should do the same. I couldn’t agree more, because it’s a great way to donate locally and give back to our own community.”

And Elaine Carter, director of funds development for Girlstown Foundation, said that the agency could not be more appreciative.

“Christmas time we always get large donations from the community and we are very grateful for the outpouring of generosity,” she said.

The women and their guests will bring their finest china, silverware, linens, holiday decorations and gifts from the Girlstown Foundation Christmas wish list to the September Days Senior Center at 6 p.m. on Dec 2. The event will include performances by Jane Oliver’s dance studio in Belleville,

guest speakers sharing poems, stories and songs, as well as other activities to get people into the Christmas spirit, said Scherdt.

“It’s been a collaborative effort at the center. Everyone has been working together on this event to see that Girlstown has a great holiday,” she said.

Scherdt added that she anticipates more than 100 people will attend the benefit, making at least 100 items to be crossed off the foundation wish list.

The Girlstown Foundation is now in its 45th year of operation. It is a multi-service organization that provides family, community, mental health and child welfare services for families throughout Michigan.

The programs include: residential and treatment services, supervised independent living and specialized and general foster care services.

Non-perishable gifts will go to the programs and services at Girlstown Foundation, specifically the loch rio program, the transitional treatment program and the supervised independent living program.

Although the tea is for senior center members only, Girlstown Foundation always welcomes donations from the public.

The wish list includes: clothing items, shoes, accessories and personal items, school supplies and household products. To donate, call the foundation at 734-697-7242.

Local singer celebrates new release

Rachel Williams of Belleville released her debut CD, *First Day of the Truth*, and celebrated the cause at the Diamondback Saloon in Belleville last weekend.

The country star, who attracted national attention on the USA Network Show *Nashville Star 2*, hosted her record release party Sunday. Fans enjoyed live music from her CD, as well as opening act, Jill Jack.

Bill Edwards, Regaltone’s CEO, said in a prepared statement, “Rachel Williams has enough talent for a whole jukebox

full of hits.” Which is nothing new to her fans.

The CD, on Regaltone Records, was recorded in Nashville (her new hometown), and features an array of R&B mixed with country tunes, including one by Bekka Bramlett, who has written songs for country singer Faith Hill.

Williams now calls Nashville home since her move last May.

The disc is available through William’s website at www.rachelwilliamsmusic.com.

Continued from page 11

a.m. until 3:00 p.m. and a brunch with Santa on Sunday, December 12th at 11:00 a.m. For further information on programs and events contact the Recreation Department at 734.699.8921.

The Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce annual Holiday Parade will be held on Saturday, December 4th at 11:00 a.m.

The Belleville tree lighting ceremony will held at the Museum on Friday, December 3rd at 6:00 p.m.

AUDIENCE (Non-Agenda Items): A resident stated there is a large bump at the traffic light exit from Wal-Mart. Supervisor King stated Wayne County would have approved the driveway and Director Kelley stated he would inquire with the County.

A resident ask for an update on the search for a Public Safety Director. Supervisor King stated Kelly and Stone and Supervisor King had reviewed approximately sixty applications that were received; twenty-three candidates were called in for initial interviews; of those candidates eight given a more in depth second interview. Supervisor King stated she is awaiting a written recommendation from Kelly and Stone with two or three candidates to be interviewed by the Board at a Special Board Meeting after the Thanksgiving Holiday.

CLOSED SESSION: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Payne moved, Herman seconded to adjourn at 8:41 p.m. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Joannie D. Payne, CMC
Township Clerk

Cindy C. King
Township Supervisor

Publish: November 25, 2004

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD OF TRUSTEES PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Van Buren Township, in accordance with guidelines of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, will be holding public hearings in order to receive comment and suggestions from residents of the community on the possible use of the Township’s 2005- Community Development Block Grant funds. The estimated funding level for the 2005-2006 CDBG Budget year is \$153,000.

The CDBG program gives priority to those qualified activities which further national objectives. These objectives are:

- To assist low and moderate-income persons
- To address slum or blight conditions
- To meet a particularly urgent community development need

Some past projects in Van Buren Township have included: removal of ADA barriers in public facilities, purchase of fire equipment, senior citizen programs, ADA playground equipment, planning and design of community areas, demolition of unsafe structures, housing rehabilitation, and administration.

A Public Hearing will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 7, 2004 at the Van Buren Township Hall located at 46425 Tyler Road. Written and verbal comments will be received and taken into consideration. The deadline for input from residents via letter or telephone for possible projects is Friday, December 3, 2004. The Township Board will recommend eligible projects to Housing and Urban Development for funding and approval.

Publish: November 25, 2004

1954 PA 188 Proceedings Notice of Belle Harbor and Lake Crest Subdivisions Engineering Special Assessment Roll Hearing Charter Township of Van Buren Wayne County, Michigan

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN, OWNERS OF LAND IN THE BELLE HARBOR AND LAKE CREST SUBDIVISIONSAND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Supervisor and Treasurer of the Township has reported to the Township Board and filed in the office of the Township Clerk for public examination a special assessment roll prepared by the Township covering all properties within the Special Assessment District for the Belle Harbor and Lake Crest Subdivisions Engineering Special Assessment District benefited by the road project. Said assessment roll has been prepared for the purpose of assessing a portion of the costs of the development of design and construction plans to repave public roads in the Belle Harbor and Lake Crest Subdivisions and work incidental thereto within the aforesaid Belle Harbor and Lake Crest Subdivisions Engineering Special Assessment District as more particularly described in the proposal by Spaulding DeDecker Associates, Inc., dated 31 August 2004 on file with the Township Clerk at 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the owners of said parcels of land chose to proceed with the project for a cost not to exceed \$127,500.00 and an additional contingency of not more than \$12,750.00.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Treasurer has further reported that the assessment against each and every parcel of land within said special assessment district, with the exception of the two outlots accessing Belleville Lake and known as V-125-83-086-01-0046-005 and V-125-83-086-02-0001-000, will be \$642.68.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township Board will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Van Buren Township Board Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI on December 7, 2004 for the purpose of reviewing said special assessment roll and hearing any objections thereto. Said roll may be examined at the office of the Township Clerk during regular business hours of regular business days until the time of said hearing and may further be examined at said hearing. Appearance and protest at the hearing held to confirm the special assessment roll is required in order to appeal the amount of the special assessment to the Michigan Tax Tribunal.

An owner of party in interest, or his or her agent, may appear in person at the hearing to protest the special assessment, or shall be permitted to file his or her appearance or protest by letter and his or her personal appearance shall not be required. (The owner or any person having an interest in the real property who protests in person or in writing at the hearing may file a written appeal of the special assessment with the Michigan Tax Tribunal within 30 days after the confirmation of the special assessment roll.)

*In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, accommodations can be made available with advance notice.

Joannie D. Payne
Township Clerk
46425 Tyler Road
Belleville, MI 48111

Publish: November 25, 2004

SPORTS

Road to glory

Lady Eagles overcome Wayne, win first district title in 20 years

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

"We knew we had to come out here and make history."

That's the first thing senior point guard Paris Hawkins said when she ran off the court after she and the rest of the Romulus Lady Eagles defeated the Wayne Memorial Zebras, 52-35, Friday night.

She then joined the rest of her teammates as they piled up at center court in the Garden City High School gymnasium in celebration of their Class A district championship victory—Romulus' first in 20 years.

"It's a really good feeling to accomplish your goal; a goal that was set from the very beginning," said Romulus Coach Rhonda Henry. "I'm really proud of the accomplishment. We came a long way in a short amount of time and it was the girls that set the goal and it was them that won it."

Since day one of this season, a district championship was the top priority for Romulus and now the pressure is off. It sure wasn't pretty, though.

Both teams had a difficult time finding the net in the first half.

Senior forward Candace Lawrence got the ball rolling for Romulus with the first basket of the game. Senior forward Ashley Sibby drove to net and made a beautiful pass to Lawrence, who

laid it up for two. But Wayne's junior Carrie Laubernds countered with her basket to even things out. That was the story of the first half—back-and-forth.

Senior guard Janiece Armstrong finished the first quarter off with an easy shot, which put the Eagles up, 13-7, at the end of one.

It looked like Romulus was going to pull ahead until the Zebras opened up the second quarter with seven unanswered points to take the lead.

Wayne's senior Nicole Little made it a one-point game, 13-12, with Romulus unable to convert at the other end. Laubernds attacked the net and found it,

which gave Wayne their first lead at about 5:22 into the period.

Romulus regained control when freshman forward Jasmine Brown tacked on two points for a 15-14 lead.

Laubernds sank two for Wayne and was fouled with 45 seconds left in the first half. She missed the free-throw but the game was knotted at 17. In the final seconds, sophomore guard Erika Wasson hit to put the Eagles back on top. Romulus entered half time with a two-point lead, 19-17.

After the break, Romulus started to relax and control the momentum of the game. Lawrence made a steal and drove the distance for two and was fouled on the basket. She made her free-throw, which put Romulus up 23-20. Then



The Romulus Lady Eagles defeated the Wayne Memorial Zebras 52-35 in Class A District Championship play Friday night at Garden City High School. It was the first district title for the Lady Eagles since 1984.

Hawkins and junior forward Landria Buckley had a two-on-two breakaway. Paris made a spectacular pass behind her back to Buckley, who laid it up for two. The play extended their lead to 25-20.

That was the basket that turned the tide to their favor. From that point on, Armstrong, Sibby and Hawkins combined for 11 points, which included a huge three-pointer from Hawkins that made it 30-20. In the 11-point run Wayne only managed one field goal from Little. At the end of the third Romulus had a commanding 36-24 lead.

The momentum carried over in to the final period of play. Romulus sealed the victory when junior guard Kate Appel came off the bench and scored the final basket of the game, which made it 52-35.

"It wasn't the prettiest performance," Henry said, "but we got the job done. We were happy to bring home the championship. The girls' motto has been 'we're going to make history,' and they did. It's been 20 years since Romulus won their last championship."

The three senior captains led the team through the trying performance. Sibby, bound for Tennessee State University on a full basketball scholarship, led the efforts with 17 points and 11 rebounds. Armstrong followed with 11 and Hawkins with six points and five steals.

Lawrence had a solid game with seven points and nine rebounds.

"I think she (Lawrence) was a huge lift for our team," Henry said.

Laubernds scored nine for Wayne.

Romulus 53, Garden City 48

The road to the championship wasn't easy. The Lady Eagles faced two tough adversaries before they made it to the championship game.

First, they confronted rivals Garden City in the opening round of the tournament in Garden City. Just like the first two times the teams met in the regular season it was tight the



Romulus senior guard Janiece Armstrong takes a shot against Belleville last Thursday. The Lady Eagles sewed up a 53-36 victory and moved on to the district championship game against Wayne last Friday.

entire way. And, just like the first two times, Romulus pulled it out.

It was a bit of a sweet redemption because Garden City had knocked Romulus out of the district tournament in each of the previous three years.

"It's a relief to finally beat them," said Sibby, who scored four points with 10 rebounds in the victory. "We redeemed ourselves from the last three years. It feels good."

The Lady Eagles started out strong and took a 12-7 lead after one quarter of play. Armstrong and Hawkins combined for eight straight points to get them the lead. Armstrong started it off with her signature three-pointer. Hawkins had two steals that resulted in four points. Senior forward Alisha June scored all seven of Garden City's points.

Romulus extended their lead to 25-14 at halftime. Armstrong and Buckley combined for 11 of the team's points in the quarter. Lawrence also added two.

Armstrong led Romulus in offense with 26 points, but it was her strong play on defense that made a difference. She caused Garden City to turn the ball over

She had six steals that were all converted into points.

The sleeping Cougar offense awoke in the second half led by junior center Lindsay Fletemier who scored 11 of her 13 points in the third quarter. Her first 10 points brought Garden City to within six points, 32-26, followed by a basket by June, which made it a four-point game. Then Fletemier split her shots from the line to make it a three-point game, 32-29. But, Armstrong and Sibby teamed up to extend Romulus' lead, 37-31, at the end of the third.

The final period was the test. Armstrong hit a giant three-pointer that moved the Eagles up, 46-38, but the Cougars caught back up when June tacked on two more to cut into the lead 46-44. Armstrong made five free throws down the stretch to put the game away 53-48 for Romulus. Armstrong was 87 percent (13-of-15) from the line.

"The monkey is definitely off of our back," Henry said. "I knew it wasn't going to be pretty. I'm glad we were able to play them



Lady Eagle senior point guard Paris Hawkins sets up a play in Romulus' 53-49 victory against the Garden City Cougars last Tuesday in Garden City.

Salem douses Canton, 41-34

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

After storming through the first two rounds of the district playoffs, the Canton Chiefs met their match when the Salem Rocks rolled into Canton High School Friday night for the championship game.

Canton, the conference co-champs and Western Lakes Activities Association playoff winners, had trouble moving the ball, which allowed Salem to charge to a 41-34 victory.

Defense was the key as the Rocks held the Chiefs to just 14 points in the first half. It was quite an accomplishment – particularly when they faced Canton's all-time scoring leader, senior center Katie Cezat.

They kept her in check for most of the game. They played in her-face coverage but who ever was close by swarmed to assist in the task. Cezat still finished with 12 points – 10 of them came on free-throws.

Salem held a 21-14 lead at the half and extended it to a 33-19 margin to start the final quarter. But the Chiefs didn't give up. They came back in the fourth, led by sophomore guard Becci Houdek and senior guard Molly Conlon. The two went on a 9-0 scoring run. Houdek nailed back-to-back three-pointers followed by one from Conlon and the Chiefs were right back in it. They only trailed 33-28 with about 2:30 left to play.

Shortly after that, things start-

ed to roll down hill when Cezat fouled out at the 2:20 mark and Canton's other heavy-hitter, junior guard Lisa Ealy, fouled out at about the 2:00 point.

The Rocks nailed six free throws down the stretch to lock up the victory.

Salem's senior guard Alyssa Guerin led with 12 and senior guard Ellen Canale added 11 points.

Conlon and Houdek both added 10 for Canton.

Salem moved on to play in the first round of the regional tournament but the results were unavailable at press time.

"Salem played extremely well," said Canton Coach Bob Blohm. "My hat is off to them; they deserved to win."

"They had a lot of energy and were into the game," he added. "We had good energy early on; we were just out of sync offensively. I think the keys to the game were Salem's defense and their rebounding. Getting the ball inside on their defense was a real challenge."

Canton 57, Plymouth 38

The Plymouth Wildcats were out matched in their first attempt at varsity-level Class A district playoffs last Wednesday.

After they received a bye for the first round, they faced off against the Canton Chiefs at Canton High School where they succumbed to the Chiefs 57-38.

Plymouth had a great plan: contain Cezat and Ealy. That, they did. Cezat was kept scoreless in the first quarter and Ealy

only had four points.

But, with the focus on those two players, it left other Canton players with the opportunity to step up and make some shots. And that, they did. Houdek was a force on the court. She scored 6 points in the first, which led the Chiefs to an 11-7 lead.

Plymouth's junior center Kim Olech made it a 13-9 game to start the second. Then junior center Jeanine Moise brought them to within one. She hit a lay up and was fouled on the play. She sank the free throw, which made it 13-12 at about 6:36.

But Houdek and Cezat combined for 20 points, which extended Canton's lead, 33-18.

Mid-way through the second, Houdek intercepted a Plymouth inbounds pass and was fouled. She split her shots, which made it a 24-14 game. Then Cezat came to life and scored seven of the team's final nine points of the quarter for a 31-18 lead. Houdek made a great steal in the final seconds of the half. She drove the length of the court for a lay-up at the buzzer. It was good for a 33-18 lead at halftime.

Houdek again started out the third quarter with a two, from that point on, it was Houdek and Cezat that pulled the Chiefs away to a 55-32 lead after the third.

Houdek finished with 21 points followed by Cezat with 17.

The starters received a break as the bench came in to finish the job, 57-38.

"We started a little slow," Blohm said. "After the first four



Canton's all-time scoring and rebounding led Katie Cezat takes a shot over two South Lyon defenders last Monday night in the district tournament opener. Canton won the game 51-20. They continued on and defeated the Plymouth Wildcats, 57-38, last Wednesday but fell to the Salem Rocks 41-34 in the district championship game on Friday.

or five minutes we made some adjustments. We picked up the intensity and were more aggressive defensively."

Plymouth's junior forward Colleen Flaherty and Olech each scored 12 for the Wildcats.

"I was pleased with our offensive aggressiveness, which was more than the first two times we played them," said Plymouth Coach Richelle Reilly. "So I think we made a big improvement in that area."

Canton 51, South Lyon 20

The South Lyon Lions got more than they bargained for when they walked into Canton High School and met face to face with the Canton Chiefs in a Class A district game last Monday night.

District results

Class A, district 15
Tuesday—Romulus defeated Garden City, 53-49. Wayne, John Glenn and Belleville all had byes.

Thursday—Wayne defeated John Glenn, 50-36. Romulus defeated Belleville, 53-36.

Friday—Romulus defeated Wayne in the championship game, 52-35.

Class A, district 25
Monday—Novi defeated Northville, 45-34, and Canton defeated South Lyon, 51-20. Salem and Plymouth had byes.

Wednesday—Salem defeated Novi, 44-38, and Canton defeated Plymouth, 57-38.

Friday—Salem defeated

Canton in the championship game, 41-34.

Class C, district 77
Monday—Inkster defeated Winans Academy, 73-36, and Henry Ford Academy had a bye.

Tuesday—Detroit Community defeated Southfield Christian, 51-35 and Detroit Communications & Media Art (Detroit CMA) defeated Academy of Detroit Inkster, 57-7.

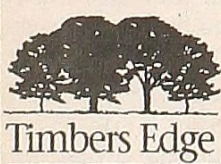
Wednesday—Inkster defeated Henry Ford Academy, 58-10, and Detroit CMA defeated Detroit Community.

Friday—Detroit CMA defeated Inkster in the championship game, 54-47.

Inkster's Sade Campbell looks to pass the ball off in the Viking's 58-10 victory against Dearborn Henry Ford Academy last Wednesday. Previously they beat the Winan's Academy 73-36 to start the district tournament, hosted at Inkster High. The Vikings fell to Detroit Communications and Media Art, 54-47 in the district finale Friday night.



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Northville's Evonna Karchon drives to the basket against Novi in the Class A District opener in Canton last Monday. The Mustangs fell 45-34 against the Wildcats.

Novi ousts Northville in district play

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The talented Northville Mustangs met their match in the Class A basketball district opener last Monday night. They faced off against the Novi Wildcats on the hardwood at Canton High School and fell, 45-34.

Rachele Folino led Novi to the victory with 16 points.

The 'Stangs had a tough time finding the basket. Only three of their players scored to obtain the 34 points. Simone Toney led with 14, while Evonna Karchon added 11 and Chrissy Castelli nine.

"We gave up too many easy baskets, a couple in transition, a three off an inbounds pass and a couple of put-backs," said Northville Coach Pete Wright.

"Turnovers hurt us, as well," he added. "We had a chance to take the lead in the third quarter with two free throws, but missed them both. The game kind of turned after that."

Turnovers were a huge factor: Novi forced 20 turnovers and scored 19 points off of them.

Toney nailed back-to-back three-pointers to cut into Novi's lead, 27-26, but the two failed free throws after that changed the tide back into Novi's favor. The Wildcats went on a scoring spree and managed a 10-point lead at the top of the fourth quarter.

It was a bit of sweet redemption for the Wildcats, though. Last year, the Mustangs trounced them, 55-31, in the opening district game. But Novi came back and defeated Northville 37-36 back on Sept. 14

in the regular season and then again in the district semi final.

Northville still has a relatively young team, however; they will lose six seniors including stars Karchon and Castelli. They will also lose Emily Weaver, Meaghan Higgins, Tracy Garfield and Lauren Iwema.

Juniors Lindsey Blair, Simone Toney, Megan Beger and Heather Cox are likely to return along with sophomore Danielle Toney and freshman Sara Stern.

"Obviously when you lose six seniors you have some holes to fill, but we are excited about the future," Wright said. "The junior varsity team was 16-4 and the freshmen were 16-1. There are a lot of talented girls on both teams."

Right now, Wright said he also plans to return.

Eagles

FROM PAGE 13

first and get over the hurdle. "Garden City played well," she added. "This is the playoffs—nobody wants to lose."

Lawrence added 13 points with five rebounds in the win.

Romulus 53, Belleville 36

In the semifinals Romulus faced off against a young and quickly improving Belleville Tiger team last Thursday.

Belleville kept it close through the first half but

Romulus struck hard in the second to capture a 53-36 victory. The win vaulted them to the championship game against Wayne.

Both teams were off to a solid start. Romulus outscored Belleville, 15-13, in the first, but both teams struggled in the second. The Eagles scored seven to Belleville's six for a 22-19 half-time score.

Senior Cynthia McGoldrick brought the Tigers to within two points, 26-24, with two easy baskets and a free-throw. But Romulus changed up their defense to a half-court trap and

went on a 17-3 scoring spree. The rally put the Eagles up, 42-27, to enter the final quarter.

"We showed a different look on defense and got some easy turnovers," Henry said. "When we changed to the half-court trap we went on a 14-0 run with about six minutes left."

Belleville's sophomore star Taylor Manley was forced to sit when she accumulated her fourth foul in the final two minutes of the third.

"That was key for us," said Belleville coach Kevin Edwards. "When Manley is out, our offense doesn't do well. That's been the

story of our season."

Manley came back late in the fourth and scored six points but it wasn't enough to overcome Romulus' lead.

Armstrong led Romulus with 20 points, six assists and five rebounds. Sibby added 16 with five rebounds and six steals while Hawkins knocked down 10 points with four assists, four steals and four rebounds. Buckley contributed with six points and six rebounds.

Manley finished with 19 points for Belleville and McGoldrick nabbed 12 rebounds.

The Lady Eagles played in

their first regional playoff game in 20 years against the Southgate Titans, a team they beat earlier in the season, at Tecumseh High School on Monday night. The results were unavailable at press time. Henry said before the game: "The focus of the team all year was to win districts, now that they have and they see who we have to play in regionals. I think that's the team's new focus. They don't want to stop at districts."

If they won they play the winner of the Dearborn and Monroe game at 7:00 tonight in Tecumseh.

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Whalers back on track

Plymouth tops Erie Otters, Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Rung by rung, the Plymouth Whalers are slowly climbing the ladder back to the top of their division.

With a 3-1 victory against the Sault Sainte Marie Greyhounds Saturday night at the Compuware Sports Arena in Plymouth Township, the Whalers have moved back in to second place, two points behind the Windsor Spitfires in the West division.

After two winless weekends that moved them down to third place in the standings, Plymouth amassed two convincing wins and a tie.

Goaltending was the key to harnessing the Greyhounds. Plymouth goaltender Ryan Nie made 30 saves to vault the Whalers to a 3-1 victory.

On offense, Dan Collins, James Neal and John Vigilante all scored for Plymouth.

However, it was the 'Hounds' Jeff Carter that put Sault Ste. Marie on the board for a 1-0 lead in the second period. The goal came on a power play with help from Blair Jarrett and Jordan Smith. Both Steve Ward

and John Mitchell were in the box serving time for penalties, which allowed the Greyhounds to take advantage.

Collins evened things up at the 10:36 mark when he scored his team-leading ninth goal of the season. Mike Knight and Mike Letizia earned the assists.

Neal, from Cory Tanaka and Zack Shepley, gave the Whalers the lead when he slapped one by Greyhound goalie Kyle Gajewski from the right point.

Gajewski was pulled for an extra shooter but Vigilante scored on the empty net to put the game away, 3-1. Knight recorded the assist.

The victory improved the Whalers' record to 8-9-4-2, good for 22 points and second place in the division.

Whalers 3, Otters 1

Plymouth shook things up Friday night when they hosted the Erie Otters. The Whalers earned their second victory when they beat the Otters 3-1.

Plymouth out shot Erie 31-28, Nie shoved aside 27 of the shots to cement the win.

After a scoreless first period, Plymouth scored two goals in less than a 1:30. Andrew Fournier scored the first one at

the 5:36 mark, from Neal and John Armstrong, and Vigilante added the second at 6:59. Mitchell and Knight recorded assists on that tally.

Ryan O'Marra scored the lone Erie goal at 12:21 of the period.

Collins finished off the scoring 55 seconds into the final period. Mitchell and Tim Sestito etched the assists.

Whalers 2, Attack 2

Plymouth couldn't hang on to a two-goal lead when they faced off against the Attack in Owen Sound last Wednesday night. Owen Sound scored to goals in the second to send the game into a scoreless overtime where it ended, 2-2.

Mitchell put the Whalers on the board first with a goal at the 14:52 mark in the first period. Vigilante notched the lone assist on the play.

Vigilante made it a 2-0 game when he

scored just 1:23 into the second period. Knight and Mitchell helped on the play.

Owen Sound attacked the net and scored two late goals to send the game into an extra period. Bobby Ryan scored the first goal 13:41 into the period. Patrick Jarrett and Wes Cunningham were credited the assists. Brad Richardson popped in the second one with help from Ryan and Stefan Ruzicka on a power play. Jonas Fiedler was in the box serving time on a slashing penalty to allow the man advantage for Owen Sound.

Nie kept the Whalers in the game, stopping 31-of-33 shots.

Plymouth will host division leaders and cross-river rivals, the Windsor Spitfires tonight at 7:30. Then they will travel to London, Ontario to face the Knights on Friday night and return home to take on Peterborough at 7:30 p.m. Saturday.

Charter Township of Van Buren

Notice of Public Hearing

of the Board of Trustees

December 7, 2004 at 7:30 p.m.

Board Room of Van Buren Township Hall
46425 Tyler Road

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss proposed projects for the
2005-2006 Community Development Block Grant Program

Total estimated funding for all projects is anticipated to be
one hundred sixty-nine thousand dollars (\$153,000)

In compliance with the American with Disabilities Act,
reasonable accommodations will be made with advance
notice. Please notify the Building and Planning
Department at 734.699.8913.

Publish: November 25, 2004

Charter Township of Van Buren

Notice of Public Hearing

Residents of Van Buren Township are notified that at the December 7, 2004, Township Board meeting at Township Hall, a Public Hearing will open for discussion of the General Fund and all Special Revenue Funds, or other budgetary matters. The 2004 Amended General Fund Budget proposal totals \$10,931,816; the proposed 2005 General Fund Budget totals \$11,421,142. The Special Revenue Funds under consideration are Fiscal Year CDBG, D.D.A., French Landing Improvement Project, Capital Improvement Fund, Landfill Fund, Museum Fund, Hannan Road Project (SAD), Bemis Road Project (SAD), 911 Service Fund, Federal Forfeiture Fund and State Forfeiture Fund. Each of these funds has an anticipated budget which is available for public review. Consideration of each of the funds will be heard at the Public Hearing and will be an agenda items for Board deliberation. The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing. The specific proposals are available for your review in the Clerk's office, on Monday, November 29, 2004, at Van Buren Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township.

Joannie Payne, CMC
Township Clerk

Publish: November 25, 2004

Charter Township of Van Buren

Notice of Public Hearing

December 7, 2004

Community Development Block Grant Use of Funds

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a public hearing will be held by the Charter Township of Van Buren, Township Board at 7:30 p.m., December 7, 2004, at the Township Hall, Board Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, Michigan 48111

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, that the purpose of the hearing is to hear and consider comments from the public regarding the proposed use of Housing Revolving Loan Funds to finance the following activities:

1. Property acquisition for the construction of new homes for eligible low to moderate income families, and
2. Demolish dilapidated, unsafe homes and accessory structures that have a blighting influence on a local neighborhood; and
3. Provide loans to eligible low to moderate-income families for housing repairs such as but not limited to a new roof, new furnace, structural damage, or new windows with better insulation to reduce energy loss.

These program activities will be administered in accordance with all of the guidelines of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

If you are unable to attend the public hearing you may submit written comments to the Township Clerk's Office until 5:00 PM December 15, 2004.

Joannie D Payne, CMC
Township Clerk

Publish: November 25, 2004

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN

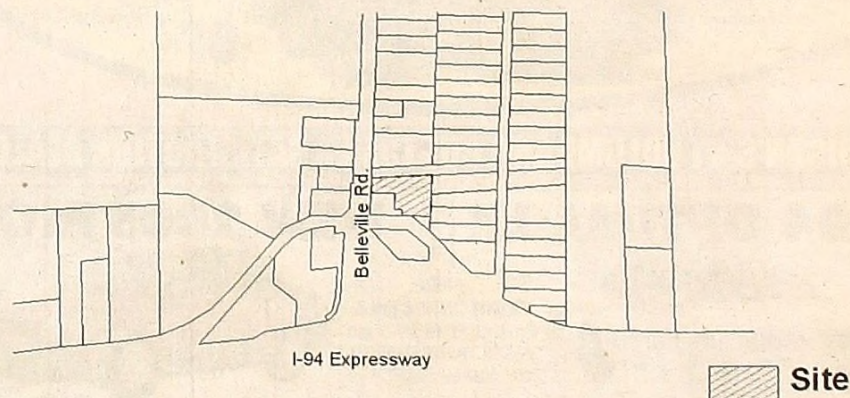
PLANNING COMMISSION

PUBLIC HEARING

The Charter Township of Van Buren Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday December 8, 2004 at 7:30 p.m., in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, Wayne County, Michigan

The Public Hearing relates to the following described property:

This is a portion of parcel with the tax ID number V-125-83-059-01-0011-002. This property is located on the east side of Belleville Road between I94 Service Drive and Tyler Road. A map indicating the location of the subject site is included below.



The applicant is requesting special use approval. A special use approval is required for a drive-through window per Section 13.03 (e) of the Zoning Ordinance. Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 5:00p.m., December 8, 2004, the hearing date.

In the spirit of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

Publish: November 25, 2004

THE SCENE

'Spongebob' movie absorbs all ages



Reviewed By
Scott Spielman
Editor

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SpongeBob Squarepants is the kind of employee that every restaurant manager yearns for.

He's always on time, dedicated to his job and fervently wishes for a promotion. He even dreams about it.

That's what he's doing when we first meet him in *The SpongeBob Squarepants Movie*, which opened last week.

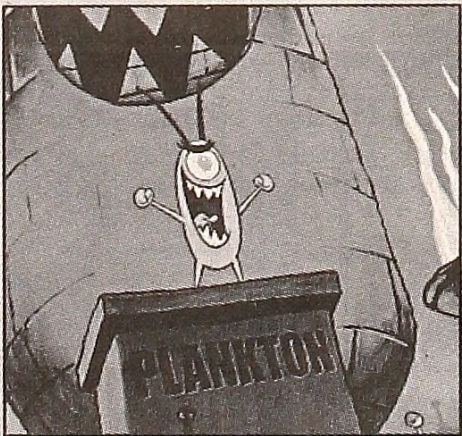
SpongeBob (voice by Tom Kenny) is a fry cook at The Krusty Krab, along with the chronically bored Squidward Tentacles (whose deadpan voice is delivered by Roger Bumpass). Their boss, Eugene H. Krabs (Clancy Brown) is so successful that he plans to open a second Krusty Krab – right next door. Spongebob, who has a wall decorated entirely with more than 350 employee of the month certificates, expects the promotion to store manager.

Alas, it is not meant to be. Mr. Krabs picks Squidward for the post, because he is more mature than Spongebob.

"You have to be a man to be a man-

ager," he tells the dejected sponge. "Otherwise, they'd call it a kid-ager."

A business competitor, Plankton (voiced by Mr. Lawrence), doesn't want either restaurant to succeed, though. He hatches a plan from his own restaurant, The Chum Bucket, to steal the secret formula for the Krabby Patty, drive Krabs out of business and then



takeover the world – or at least the undersea world of Bikini Bottom. I guess you have to start somewhere.

Plankton steals King Neptune's (Jeffrey Tambor) crown, frames Krabs for the crime and sets up the quest that

fills out the rest of the animated tale. Spongebob and his friend Patrick (Bill Fagerbakke of television's *Coach*) set out to Shell City to retrieve the stolen crown and prove their maturity along the way.

They face plenty of obstacles on their quest, including a mercenary named Dennis who is oddly reminiscent of the Leonard Smalls character in the classic *Raising Arizona*.

They get some help, too, from none other than David Hasselhoff. The close-ups of Spongebob and Patrick riding on his back – and even worse, squeezed between his pectorals – provide for a few queasy moments, but otherwise the film runs smoothly, with humor that appeals to young and old alike. That shouldn't surprise anyone familiar with the televised cartoon, though. I confess I'm a fan, because it seems more geared to my sense of humor than that of my 4-year-old son, Henry. Maybe it's because I was once a fry cook and I, too, wanted more out of life. I didn't go on to restaurant management, but I had to prove my maturity, nonetheless.



Kid's CORNER

By Henry Scott Spielman

The *Spongebob Movie* was so funny.

I liked the part where Mindy (King Neptune's daughter, voiced by Scarlett Johansson) tricked Spongebob and Patrick with the fake mustaches.

I don't like Plankton very much. He's too mean. There were lots of other really big monsters, too. They were scary.

But I liked Mindy.



Editor's Note: *The Spongebob Squarepants Movie* was Henry's first trip to a movie theater. He managed to sit still for 85 of its 90 minutes, which is by far a record for him.

Couch potato alert

Holiday movies abound to ensure festive spirits of season

We made our list, we checked it twice, we found out which holiday movies were naughty or nice. In preparation for the holiday season, we have compiled a list of entertainment for each day from Thanksgiving to Christmas.



Nov. 24

Trains, Plains and Automobiles (1987)

Steve Martin, John Candy
The only thing that Neal Page (Martin) wants is to spend Thanksgiving Day with his family. However, he has to make it home first. His trek home turns into a hilarious road trip with an obnoxious shower ring salesman (Candy). The laughs are endless in this John Hughes directed holiday classic.

Nov. 25

Home for the Holidays (1995)
Holly Hunter, Robert Downey, Dylan McDermott

Jodie Foster directs an all-star cast in this holiday comedy. Claudia (Hunter) loses her job and decides to return home to spend Thanksgiving with her dysfunctional family. Crazy things, along with moments of tenderness and love, are bound to happen when she spends two crazy days with her meddling mother, obnoxious gay brother, and flatulent aunt and the rest of the family.



Nov. 26

Dutch (1991)
Ed O'Neill

In this lighthearted comedy the working-class Dutch (O'Neill) drives his girlfriend's upper-class son home from boarding school on Thanksgiving Day. Personalities clash during on a very long trip that is filled with mayhem, misadventure and moments of understanding—everything that represents the holiday season.

Nov. 27

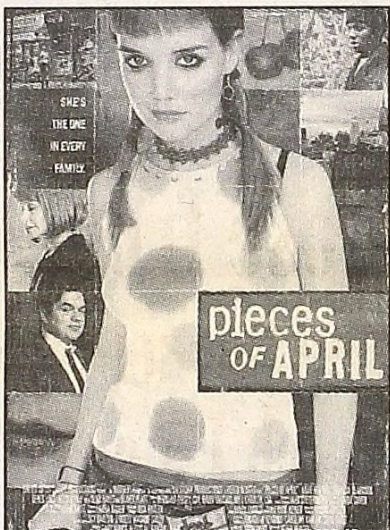
A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving (1973)

This is a Thanksgiving Day classic for the entire family. When Peppermint Patty invites herself along with the rest of the Peanuts gang to Charlie Brown's house for turkey day, everyone learns lessons in giving and sharing. Chef Snoopy and pilgrim Woodstock carry the day.

Nov. 28

Son In Law (1993)

Pauly Shore, Tiffani Thiessen
Things get out of hand when a conservative country girl invites crazy and funky city boy (Shore) to her parents' rural Pennsylvania farm for Thanksgiving. When the two college pals pretend to be engaged the ruse causes a ripple in her relationship with her family. While the family learns to accept his offbeat habits they also learn to accept and understand each other.



Nov. 29

Pieces of April (2003)

Katie Holmes, Sean Hayes
Wild child April Burns (Holmes) invites her straight-laced family to her Manhattan apartment for Thanksgiving dinner. But big problems arise when she discovers that her oven doesn't work and she has to seek the help of her eccentric neighbors to cook the feast for her.

Nov. 30

The Family Man (2000)
Nicolas Cage, Tea Leoni, Don Cheadle, Jeremy Piven

When successful Wall Street business man (Cage) encounters a mysterious stranger that allows him to see and experience what his life would be like if he chose a different route. He finds himself living in suburbia

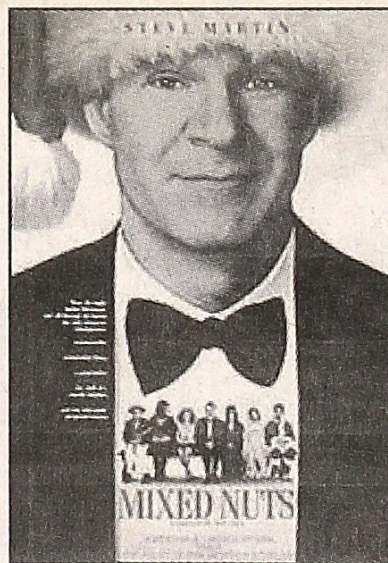
happily married to his high school sweetheart (Leoni) with two kids. This ends up being a compassionate Christmas story about a man who has to choose between his successful lifestyle or happy family-life.



Dec. 1

White Christmas (1954)
Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Rosemary Clooney

This yuletide favorite is filled with a glorious mix of song, dance comedy and romance when two nightclub owners (Crosby and Kaye) team up with singing-sister act (Clooney and Vera'Ellen) for a romantic Christmas adventure. A series of romantic mix-ups ensue as the four entertainers secretly make plans to bail an old war buddy out of financial doldrums. *White Christmas* is showing at Showcase Cinemas Westland at 1 p.m. this day.



Dec. 2

Mixed Nuts (1994)

Steve Martin, Madeline Kahn, Robert Klein, Anthony LaPaglia, Juliette Lewis, Live Schriber
All chaos erupts on Christmas Eve when the manager (Martin) of Lifeline, a Venice Beach suicide hotline, learns that their

being evicted from their building. But the offbeat characters learn that Christmas can be a happy time regardless of your, or those around you, mental state.

Dec. 3

Bad Santa (2003)

Billy Bob Thornton, Bernie Mac, John Ritter

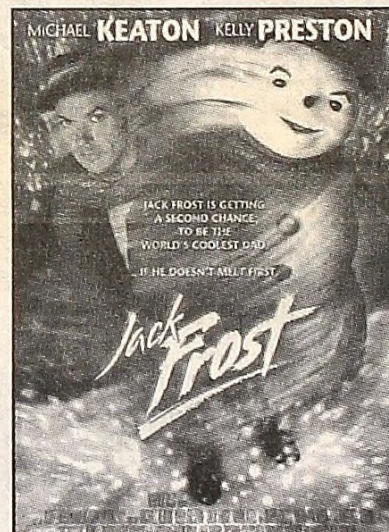
All right parents, put the kids to bed early for this one. This raunchy tale of a alcoholic criminal (Thornton), who poses as a mall Santa Claus, along with his buddy posing as an elf, that has an elaborate plan to rob the mall blind on Christmas Eve. Things change, though, when he meets an introverted 8-year-old who reminds him of the true meaning of Christmas.

Dec. 4

Jingle All the Way (1996)

Arnold Schwarzenegger, Sinbad, Phil Hartman, Rita Wilson

Two guilt-ridden fathers, Schwarzenegger and Sinbad, race around Minneapolis on Christmas Eve trying to buy their sons the very popular and very sold out Turbo Man action dolls.



Dec. 5

Jack Frost (1998)

Michael Keaton, Kelly Preston
Jack Frost (Keaton) is man who tries to be a husband, father and

rocker. But when he is killed in a car accident he realizes that his priorities weren't in check. He then tries to right his wrongs once he is reincarnated as a snowman.



More holiday movies next week

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11:15, 1:10, 2:40, 4:30, 6:05, 7:50, 9:30
FRI/SAT LS 11:05
BRIDGET JONES: THE EDGE OF REASON
(R) 2 PRINTS / 2 SCREENS
12:00, 12:45, 2:15, 3:00, 4:40, 5:15, 7:00, 7:30, 9:15, 9:45
FRI/SAT LS 11:30, 12:00
AFTER THE SUNSET (PG-13)
7:10, 9:10 FRI/SAT LS 11:10
SHALL WE DANCE (PG-13) 11:10AM
THE INCREDIBLES (PG)
11:20, 11:50, 1:50, 2:20, 4:20, 4:50, 6:50, 9:20
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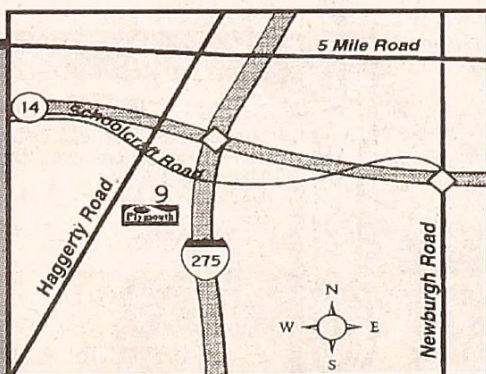
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Everyday magical moments can be missed

Recently, I wrote about an experience I had while walking in the woods near a small lake. Spotting a heron standing in a foot of water, I stopped to watch. As still as a statue, the bird cast a crystal clear reflection in the tranquil water. It moved slowly, one foot then the other as it searched for food. It was poetry in motion.

I began feeling like a boy would, watching something mysterious. It was a marvelous, warm, safe feeling.

When I got home, I called and told my son Jason about it. Not a week later, he called to tell me about a trip he made to the ballpark.

It was one of those days, he said, one you wished only came once a year. Work was a nightmare, he was overtired, stressed and ready to relax. But, as life does, it seems those are the times everything hits the fan.

It also seems, those are the moments the universe chooses to offer wonderful moments. Moments, you miss if you're not available.

The kid next door wanted to go to the Tigers game with Jason and his three children.

"I mean the kid wanted to go desperately," Jason said. "I didn't have a ticket for him and frankly didn't want to haul an extra kid. But, what the heck, I thought, and took the kid along."

When they got to the Tiger game, Jason stood in line to buy a ticket for the neighbor and then stood in line to get into the game.

Finally getting to the gate, Jason was told the ticket he just purchased was for a different date than that day.

Jason and the four kids marched back to the ticket office, stood in line again, and—insult to injury—had to pay \$2 more, because they were sold out of the kind of ticket he'd just bought a few minutes earlier.

Back in line and finally, into the ballpark and down to the seats.

Good luck, the two seats next to Jason were empty, so the neighbor kid could sit with them.

"Finally, we get in, sit down and the seats are great. The game is terrific, even though the Tigers lost," Jason said.

Heading for the exit along with thousands of other people, the kids want to ride the baseball Ferris wheel.

"At first, I said no, then OK," Jason told me. "Dad, you wouldn't believe what happened next."

"The Ferris Wheel started turning and my kids started singing *Take me out to the ball game*. In a matter of seconds, others joined in, and before you knew it, every kid on the Ferris wheel was singing, Jason said. "People were smiling, a couple of

drunks even started singing and it was one of those moments."

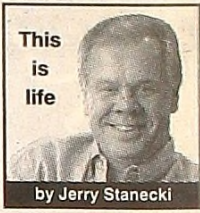
"What do you mean?" I asked.

"It was like an out-of-body experience, when you see life clearly. I felt like—at that moment—all was right with the world."

Serendipity—I love it.

Had any lately?
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59. Auctions

U-Store It #401

Notice of Public Sale. On Thursday Dec 2, 2004 at 11am, U-Store It 28266 Ecorse Rd. Romulus, with reserve, will sell by the unit to the highest bid by CASH all rights, title and interest to the following property of:

Shane Johnson D22: 1 sofa, 1 bed set, misc

Kimberly Depriest D19: Sofa, chair, misc

Brian John Rodden D35: Furniture, tires, misc

Jeannine Y. Whitted: E26 Furniture, futon, misc

RJL'S Affordable Transmission C28: File cabinet, desk, Coca-Cola Machine

Steven Thomas A21: Chair, bed, sofa, misc

Karen Harrison D4: Bags, dryer, refrigerator, misc

1992 Geo 2C1MR2460N6779090
1991 Geo 2C1MR2464M6730537
1995 Dodge 1B3ES67C9SD532766

CITY OF WESTLAND
NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

On November 30, 2004 the Westland Police Department will conduct public auctions of impounded, abandoned vehicles. The first auction will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m. at Westland Service Towing, 37501 Cherry Hill, Westland, MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

1989 Mercury Topaz 4 Door-Red
1MEPM37X2KK653135
1986 Chrysler 5th Ave 4 Door-Black
1C3BF66P2GX507955
1985 Ford Tempo 4 Door-Gold
1FABP22X4FK199180
1988 Chrysler New Yorker 4 Door-Burgundy
1C3BU6636JD215303
1987 Oldsmobile Delta 88 4 Door-Burgundy
1G3HN5430HH319577

1988 Plymouth Voyager Station Wagon-Blue
2P4FH5139JR617151
1992 Pontiac Grand Am 4 Door-Blue
1G2NE543XNC235931
1966 Ford Falcon 2 Door-Brown
6K01U211684
1988 Chevrolet 1500 Pickup Truck-Red/Black
1GDCD14Z8JZ166769
1995 Geo Metro 2 Door-Red
2C1MR2263S6754991
1991 Chevrolet S-10 Pickup Truck-Red/Gray
1GCCS14RXM2266304

The second auction will begin promptly at 11:00a.m. at Westland Car Care 6375 Hix Rd., Westland, MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

1979 Thompson 18' Boat W/Trailer White/Brown
TMS9524CM790
1991 Ford Probe 2Door-Red
1ZVPT22L4M5171882
1997 Plymouth Neon 4 Door-Black
1P3ES47YXVD212567
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1G2WJ52K7VF209229
2004 Chevrolet Impala

4 Door-Gray 2G1WH52K249137332
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1FALP62W1RH195379
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1B4FK44R0LX317239
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1W27JAK449172
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1FMDU34X7MUB94163
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2MEPM36X3PB629834
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Red NONE
1990 Mercury Marquis Station Wagon-Blue
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All vehicles are sold in "as is" condition. Bidding on all vehicles will start at the amount due for towing and storage. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

30 DAY NOTICE OF AUCTION
Due to unknown ownership, 30 day notice is hereby given that the vehicle(s) listed below will be auctioned after DECEMBER 25, 2004 unless it is claimed by the owner prior to that time:

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1988 Pontiac 1G2WJ14W2JF239838
1993 Saturn 1G8ZF5598PZ219704
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1989 Mercury 1MEBM50U7KG656489
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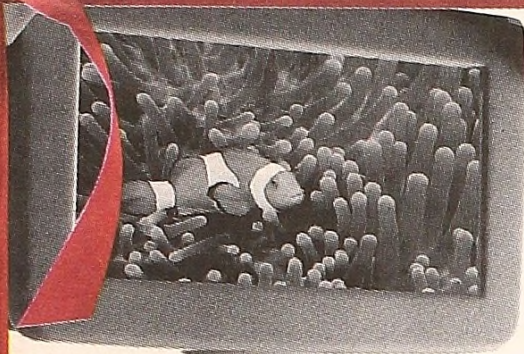
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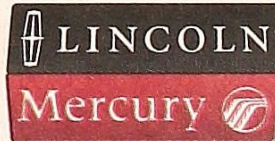


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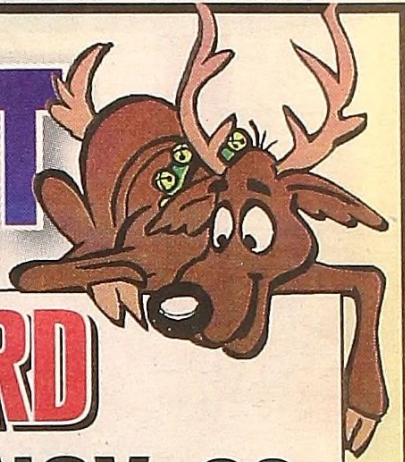
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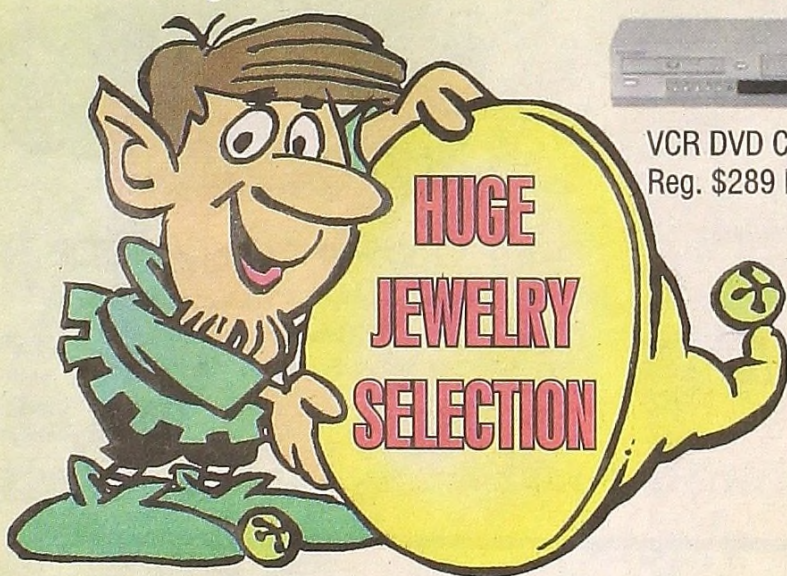


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